WHAT IF ELIZABETH I HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED?

TOP 10 GREAT ESCAPES

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WHEN BRITAIN BURNED DOWN THE WHITE HOUSE

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY

Power, propaganda and persecution in Hitler's Third Reich

HARRY EDWARD BRITAIN'S FIRST BLACK OLYMPIC HERO

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ISSUE 97 / AUGUST 2021 / £5.50

PLUS Q&A: Why do pianos have 88 keys? How did pharaohs reach the afterlife?

Inspired by The National Archives' records discovered on Ancestry

It started with his name.

Which led me to a secret
wedding at Gretna Green.
She signed with a signature
and he with a cross.

Illiterate, with a baby imminent,
he took his hand to the loom.
But the changing times must
have forced that hand into
finding other work.
Again and again.

Our cities were transformed
by people willing to turn
their hand to anything.
I discovered he was one of them.
My Great Grandad.
Arthur Wade.

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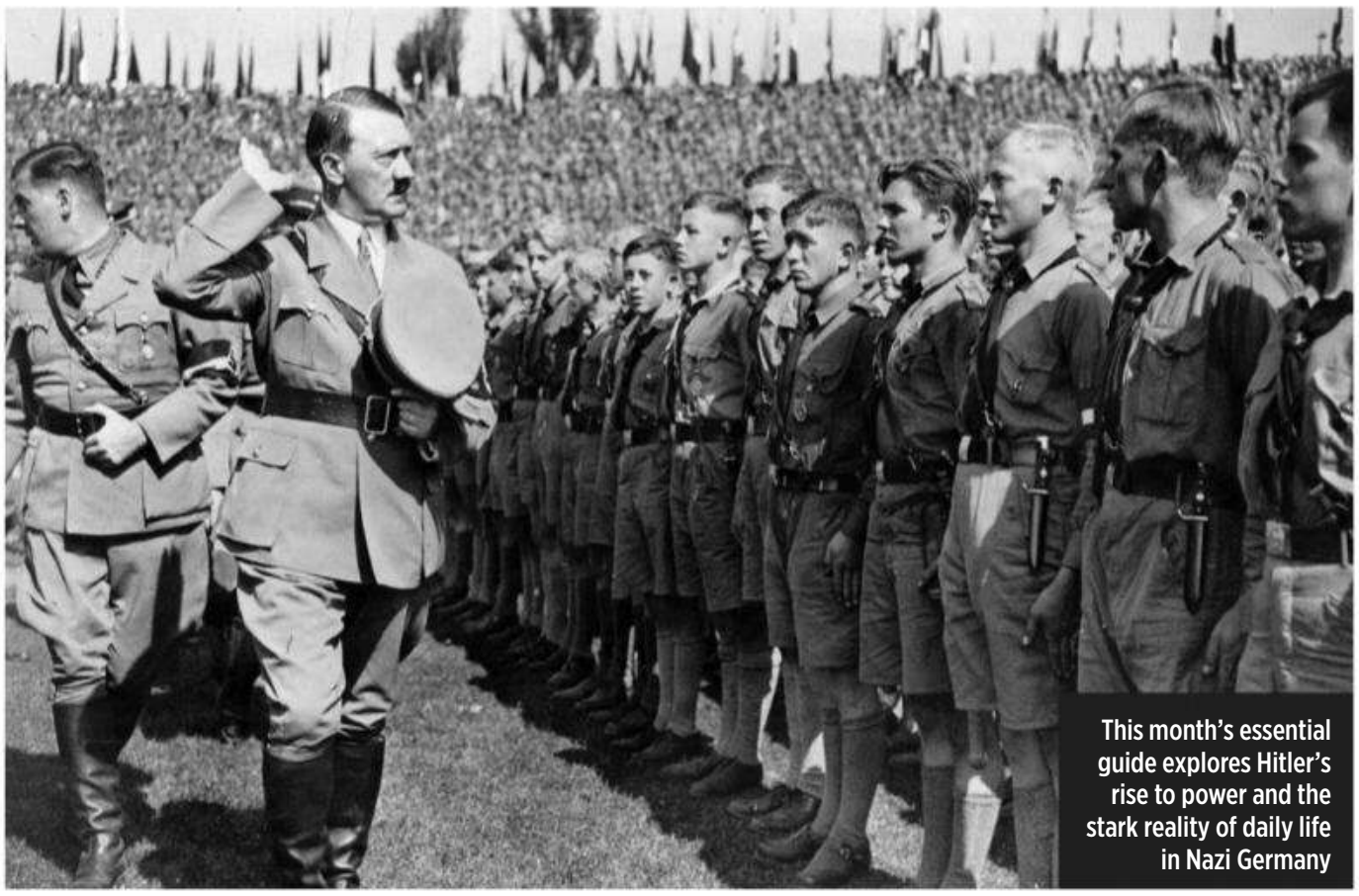
WELCOME AUGUST 2021



This month's essential guide explores Hitler's rise to power and the stark reality of daily life in Nazi Germany

The rise of Adolf Hitler – from failed artist to Führer – is one that few would have predicted when he joined the then German Workers' Party (later the Nazi Party) in 1919. But less than 15 years later, Hitler had obtained absolute power in Germany and was embarking on a path of persecution and atrocity that would change the globe forever. In this month's essential guide, **we've teamed up with world-renowned historian Professor Sir Richard J Evans to explore what life was like for those living in Nazi Germany** – from the terrible experiences of Jewish people and other minority groups, to the economic conditions that made Hitler's rise to power possible. Turn to page 28 to get started.

Elsewhere, as the world prepares for the Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, we explore the career of Harry Edward, who made history in 1920 as **Britain's first black Olympic medallist**, but whose story has too often been overlooked (*page 66*).

Also in this issue, we **examine what would have happened had Queen Elizabeth I been assassinated in 1586** and her cousin Mary, Queen of Scots taken her place on the English throne (*page 70*), **track down 10 great escapes from the past**, including the incredible story of Henry 'Box' Brown, who fled slavery by mailing himself to abolitionists in Philadelphia (*page 61*), and **investigate how and why the British invaded, and burned, Washington DC in 1814** (*page 16*).

We'll also be answering some intriguing historical questions such as who invented the cigarette? And what was cock ale? Discover all the answers from page 73.

Until next month, stay safe!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

600
The number of men who secretly dug tunnels for the 1944 escape from Stalag Luft III

300
The number of enslaved people Harriet Tubman helped to freedom via the Underground Railroad

200,000
The number of people thought to have been killed as part of the Nazis' Aktion T4 programme

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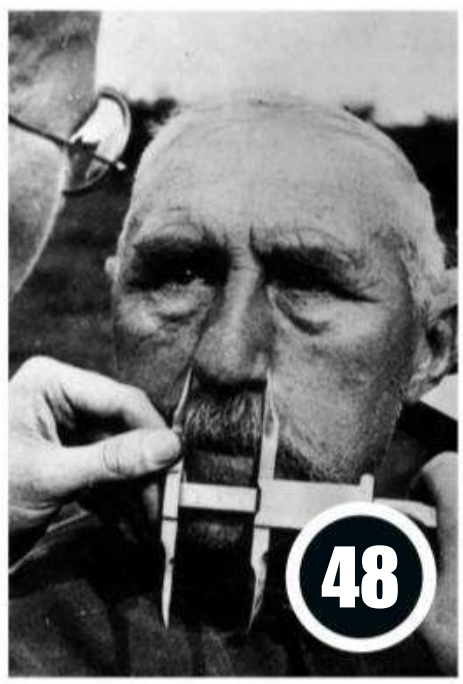

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SNAPSHOTS

1968
HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

Under the watchful eye of the television cameras, contestants on the European-wide gameshow, *Jeux sans frontières* (Games Without Borders), attempt a limbo challenge in Zofingen, Switzerland. Both the British and Italian teams wowed the judges with their incredible scores, before both were finally bested by the 45cm bar. Running between 1965 and 1999, the annual gameshow series saw teams from across Europe take part in a series of bizarre challenges, often clad in comical outfits. The competitors had usually been the winners in their respective country's domestic version of the show – in Britain, this was the BBC's *It's a Knockout*.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1907
DRIVING FORCE

A team of competitors in the Peking [now Beijing] to Paris automobile race pose for the camera alongside a group of Chinese locals, who help the men tow their car through their village. The epic challenge – originally suggested by a Parisian newspaper – saw five teams race across 9,317 miles of difficult terrain, often without roads or accompanying maps. Given that cars (and petrol stations) were still very much a novelty, camels carrying fuel had to be strategically placed along different parts of the route. The winner, Italy's Prince Scipione Borghese (*pictured here with his team*), completed the feat in two months – 20 days ahead of second place. Despite his efforts, the only prize was a magnum of champagne.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

c1913 SPLASHING AROUND

Eager to escape the summer heat, sun worshippers make the most of the sea at Broadstairs in Kent. The seaside resort first found appeal with holidaymakers during the 19th century, with both Queen Victoria and novelist Charles Dickens known to be frequent visitors. Bathing machines, which can be seen to the left of the image, allowed beachgoers to change into their swimming costumes and slip directly into the water without being seen, protecting their modesty. However, as mixed bathing gradually became more commonplace, the machines fell out of fashion, and it even became socially acceptable to be seen crossing the beach in your swimsuit – how very daring!

GETTY IMAGES

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH...

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

SUFFERING FOR FASHION

The medieval trend for pointy shoes in England led to a surge in foot deformities, according to archaeologists. Analysis of 14th- and 15th-century male skeletons in Cambridge has revealed that around 27 per cent of them suffered from bunions – compared to around six per cent for those buried between the 11th and 13th centuries. Most of the foot problems appeared in the skeletons of those aged over 45, suggesting that fashion choices made during youth had affected these men later on.

The late-medieval period saw demand for stylish shoes with elongated and pointy toes increase; the extreme pointiness of shoes even became a royal matter, with Edward IV passing a law in 1463 that limited toe length to less than two inches.

ABOVE: **Remains found on the former site of the Hospital of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge**

LEFT: **An excavated medieval foot with a deformity of the big toe, and the sole of a 14th-century pointed shoe from Cambridge**

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT X2, ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, JENNA DITTMAR, MOLA, NATIONAL GRID, OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY, RICH MEDIA, ALAMY

ROMAN SLAVE FOUND IN BRITAIN?

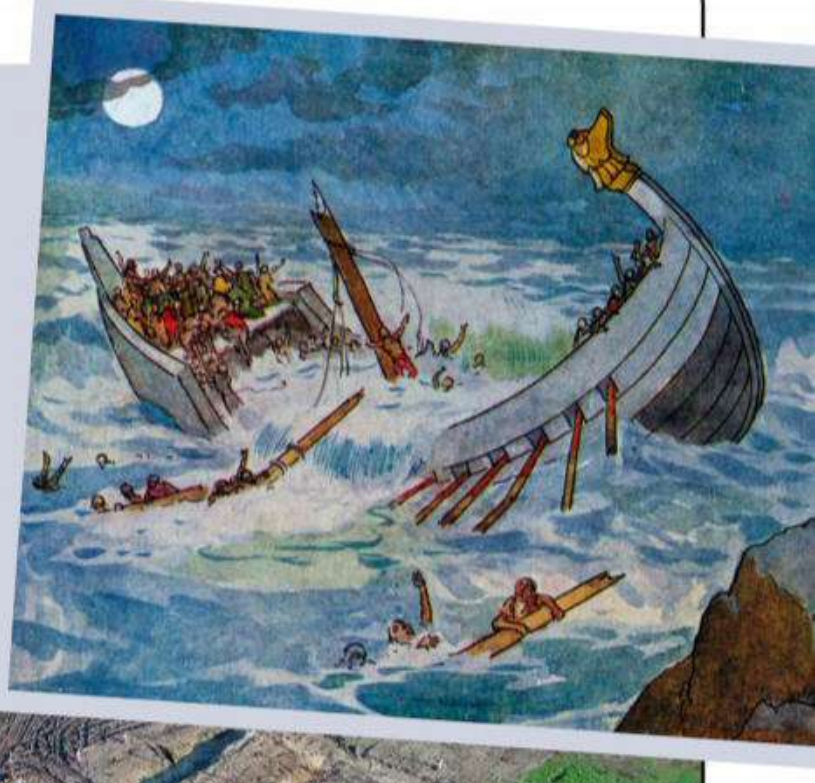
A shackled skeleton found in Rutland could be evidence of slavery in Roman Britain. Builders discovered the unusual burial in a ditch in Great Casterton in 2015, and archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology have now reported their findings on what is being called an "internationally significant" discovery. The male skeleton, which dates from between AD 226 and AD 427, is the first from this era to be found wearing iron fetters at the ankles. The remains show signs of a physically demanding life, and effort appears to have been made to separate the informal grave from a nearby Roman cemetery. This has led experts to suggest he may have been a slave.

STUDENTS DIG UP THEIR UNIVERSITY

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic has led to some University of Bradford archaeology students making some discoveries close to home, including a Victorian street dating to 1870, which has been found underneath the university's campus. Usually the department conducts trips for first-year students in Orkney, but, in the face of travel restrictions, students improvised and began digging up ground where radar had shown there was once a street. Once this years's excavations are complete, the trenches will be filled ready for next year's students.

WRECK THAT CHANGED ENGLAND FOUND?

The wreck of the *White Ship*, the sinking of which led to a succession crisis known as 'The Anarchy', may have been discovered. In November 1120, the *White Ship* sank in the English Channel with the loss of all bar one onboard, among them William Adelin, the only legitimate son of Henry I. After Henry I's death, in 1135, England was plunged into an 18-year civil war as his daughter, Matilda, and his nephew, Stephen, fought for the throne. It's thought the hull of the 900-year-old wreck may now have been found by divers from the Institute for Digital Archaeology.



€1.1bn

The sum agreed by Germany to be paid to Namibia as reconciliation for the Herero-Nama genocide of the early 20th century

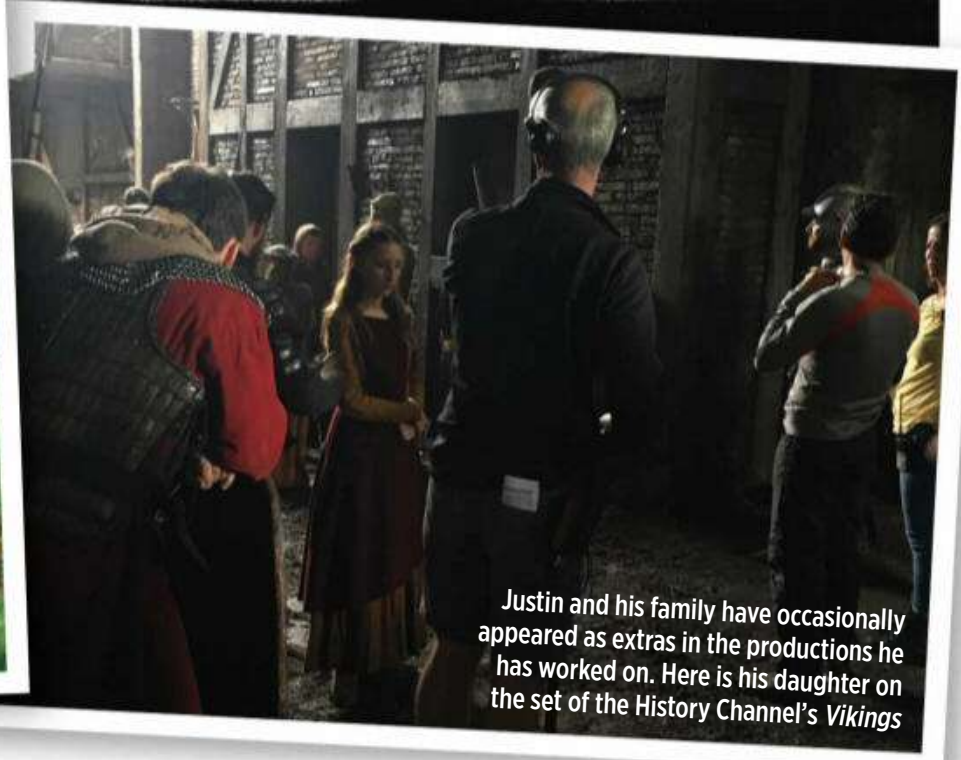
DORSET COUNTRYSIDE REVEALS ITS SECRETS

Excavation work to remove electricity pylons in Dorset has unearthed 6,000 years of human activity. A Roman settlement and Neolithic tools are just some of the discoveries made as the National Grid prepares to bury power cables in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Digs were carried out in six locations, revealing ancient burial mounds at Catsbarrow (*right*) as well as Roman malting ovens and millstones. The finds far exceed the expectations of the archaeologists working there and it's thought that analysis of the artefacts could take up to two years.

“Historical drama says as much about the time we are living in as it does about the time we are writing about”

MAIN: Justin (*left*) in period costume on the set of the 1998 film *Elizabeth*, showing director Shekhar Kapur how to bow in a Tudor fashion

BELOW: A photograph taken during the filming of an ITV documentary to mark the 400th anniversary of the 1605 gunpowder plot. Justin is pictured on the left, with his camera



Justin and his family have occasionally appeared as extras in the productions he has worked on. Here is his daughter on the set of the History Channel’s *Vikings*

ALEX BAILEY X1, MIKE CRAVEN-TODD X1, STEPHANIE POLLARD X2

Historical consultant

Justin Pollard

HOW DID YOU BECOME A HISTORICAL CONSULTANT?

After studying archaeology at Cambridge, I assumed that I would become an academic, but then I realised that I didn't want to become an expert on one area of a subject, but rather know a little about a lot of subjects. Initially, I became a TV documentary researcher, which gave me the chance to learn how to research programmes, write scripts, shoot and edit.

Having worked on documentary shows such as *Time Team*, I then got my 'break' into the film world when Working Title Films asked me to act as a consultant on the 1998 film *Elizabeth*. Working with Michael Hirst, I got to see how a really first rate drama writer puts historical fiction together, and from that point I was sure that this was what I wanted to do.

WHAT DOES THE ROLE INVOLVE?

The work often starts before a script has even been written. I spend a lot of time these days writing 'bibles' documents outlining how a show will actually work. With a project like [the History Channel series] *Vikings*, the first job was to find a story to tell. I'd previously written a biography of Alfred the Great that told the story of the semi legendary Ragnar Lothbrok and his descendants, so that seemed like a great place to start. The next job was to storyline the series and create an overall arc, and find the details and vignettes to bring it to life. After that, I briefed the directors and heads of department on the period and answered any questions they had.

During shooting I was occasionally present on set, but I was usually back in my study so I could answer any queries that came up. After principal photography had finished, I then worked with the sound team adding in all of the additional dialogue recordings (particularly in other languages), before moving on to work on the launch publicity. I wrote the advertising videos, gave interviews and recorded DVD commentaries.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE TV OR FILM PROJECT TO WORK ON?

The joy of the job is that every show is different. A huge project like *Mary Poppins Returns* or *Pirates of the Caribbean* is a real 'event' in itself, and working on a film like *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* (set during the Holocaust) makes you realise that what you do

really matters. However, my favourite has to be *Vikings*, because having written about these shadowy characters for so long, I could then go and meet them. It's every historian's dream!

WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST PARTS OF YOUR JOB?

The best part of the job is bringing characters and places back to life. Walking onto the set of *Agora* in Malta, where we'd rebuilt the middle of ancient Alexandria, it was extraordinary to think that I was the first historian to walk these (albeit reconstructed) streets for over a thousand years. Similarly, getting to meet Cate Blanchett as Elizabeth I, coaching Lord Attenborough on Tudor etiquette and helping Sir John Gielgud with his Latin (which he told me he hadn't done since 1914!) were also unforgettable moments.

On the downside, there is absolutely no job security, and you rely on word of mouth (and a good agent) to find out what's happening. As such, it's necessary to have a 'Plan B'. Some historical consultants are full time academics, whereas I write books and magazine columns and give talks, among other things.

HOW MUCH RESEARCH DO YOU TYPICALLY NEED TO DO?

When I started in TV, work on a documentary series typically began with three months in the British Library just reading and taking notes. That initial work is now usually done online in a matter of weeks. I tend to start with primary sources not because they are necessarily the most accurate, but because they feature the small details that make a show feel authentic and contain stories unique to the era that no writer, no matter how good, could come up with.

After that, it's library work for anything that I can't get online, followed by museum visits and most importantly of all talking to academics, curators and custodians. I use specialists all the time, as only they have the details I need. I couldn't do without them.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ON FILMS AND TV PROGRAMMES THAT TAKE ARTISTIC LIBERTIES WITH HISTORY?

I take a practical view (I hope). The past cannot be forensically reconstructed we don't have the data, and we could never escape our modern mindset to fully understand it, even if it were possible. What we hope to do in historical filmmaking is to tell stories set in other times and places that resonate with modern audiences. Historical drama says as much about the time we are currently living in as it does about the time we are writing about and that is, I think, what history really is.

But that doesn't mean we don't have any responsibilities. I hope to make shows feel authentic to increase the audience's immersion in the time and place, and to help them empathise. I also hope to pose questions for them about these past stories that make them think about the present. The audiences I meet don't have any problem with the idea that historical fiction is fiction, and they understand the limitations of filmmaking.

However, they do expect that if they're told something happened, then it happened. We all make mistakes, and we must hold our hands up to them. Future generations will probably look at our films and laugh at them, just as we do when watching the work of previous generations – and that's just good history.

JUSTIN POLLARD is a historian, television producer and writer. In his role as a historical consultant, he's worked on film and television projects such as *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Vikings* and *Elizabeth*. More information about his work can be found at *visualartefact.com*

The burning of Washington

Words: Emma Slattery Williams

On the evening of 24 August 1814, the residents of Washington City (now Washington DC) watched in horror as their home was set ablaze. The capital of the United States was under attack by British troops, and soon some of the most important government buildings were also in flames, including the Capitol Building (where the US Congress met) and the President's House (now known as the White House). It was the first time since the American War of Independence that a foreign power had captured the city.

Since June 1812, the United States had been at war with Great Britain in a conflict known as the War of 1812. [Confusingly the conflict would last until 1815, and in Britain it was referred to as the American War of 1812 to differentiate from their conflicts in Europe]. At this time, Britain was also in the midst of the Napoleonic Wars, fighting against the aspirations of Napoleon and France. To stop the US from trading with the French, Britain imposed trade restrictions and lent its support to the Native Americans who continued to resist the US's westward expansion. Not only that, but the Royal Navy was making matters worse by its use of impressment the practice of forcing American merchant seamen to become crew on British ships.

This multi faceted aggression eventually reached a tipping point, and on 12 July 1812, the US attempted to attack the British colony of Canada.

ABOVE: **The President's House (now the White House) is set aflame as the city's residents flee**

LEFT: **Sir George Cockburn shown encouraging British troops to burn down Washington**

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X3

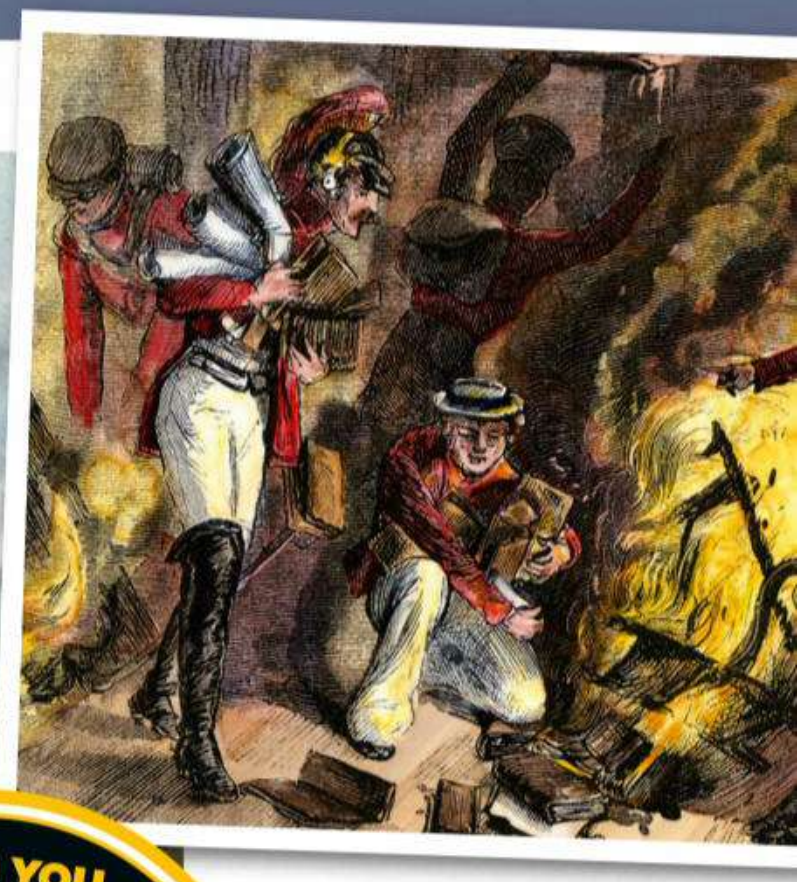
HEADING FOR THE CAPITAL

The American incursions into Canada were largely unsuccessful, hindered both by the Canadian militia and the efforts of British allied Native American forces. But the tone of fighting changed in May 1814, when then the end of the War of the Sixth Coalition which had seen France defeated and Napoleon exiled to Elba meant Britain was able to devote itself fully to war across the Atlantic.

British ships arrived in Maryland in mid August, and troops rapidly made for Washington. On their way, they overwhelmed American forces at Bladensburg, a few miles from Washington, inflicting a humiliating defeat on 24 August. With no plan for an orderly retreat, the Americans scattered and fled, and the route to Washington was left clear.

Led by Rear Admiral Sir George Cockburn and Major General Robert Ross, around 4,500 men descended on Washington and began setting the city on fire, with the flames so high that they could be seen for miles around.

US President James Madison and his wife, Dolley, were forced to flee as the



DID YOU KNOW?

PATRIOTIC INSPIRATION

While watching the battle of Fort McHenry from a British warship where he was negotiating the release of prisoners, US lawyer Francis Scott Key wrote a poem called 'The Defence of Fort M'Henry'. Later set to the tune of a British song, it would become 'The Star-Spangled Banner' – the American national anthem.

> "The heart of America was alight as a British flag was unfurled over the city"

British approached. Before she left the President's House, Dolley ensured that a painting of founding father and first president George Washington was saved from the flames. She had been planning for a large dinner gathering that evening, so when the weary British troops arrived at the mansion, a pleasant surprise awaited them. They dined well on the feast before torching the building.

The heart of America was alight as a British flag was unfurled over the city. Beyond the President's House, the Capitol Building was another prime target even though it was still unfinished due to what it symbolised and its prominent position in the centre of the US governmental district. The oldest part of the Capitol Building, the Senate wing, had wooden floors so caught alight easily. It also housed the books and manuscripts of the Library of Congress, most of which were destroyed. Former president Thomas Jefferson would later sell his private collection to Congress to replace it, doubling the size of the library's previous collection, with books on everything from philosophy to cookery.

Private homes were left undisturbed, as was the patent office its superintendent, Dr William Thornton, convinced the British that it was too important to humanity to destroy but the US Treasury, as well as a newspaper office thought to produce anti British propaganda, were both set alight. To stop American ships falling into British hands, the naval yard was deliberately set on fire before the British could get there.

Civilians weren't harmed, and only one American is believed to have been killed during the burning: John Lewis, grandnephew of George Washington. Forced into the Royal Navy a few years before, he held a special disdain for the British and was shot while confronting troops as they torched the city. The British suffered a handful of casualties themselves: 30 men were killed at an outpost known today as Fort McNair, when a seemingly empty store of gunpowder exploded.

Looting accompanied the flames instigated by British troops as well as local residents. Among the purloined items were paintings of George III and Queen Charlotte from the President's House, which were later taken to Bermuda. They still hang in government buildings there today. As all this was taking place, another British force launched a raid on the nearby city of Alexandria, but there the mayor swiftly surrendered. The city escaped Washington's fate.

Why was the sack so vicious? An earlier American attack on the city of York modern day Toronto in the then colony of Canada was one of the reasons given for this brutal burning. Retribution for a May raid on another Canadian town, Port Dover, which saw American troops destroy a large quantity of food supplies, may also have been a factor.

ABOVE LEFT:
US general Andrew Jackson leads his troops during the battle of New Orleans, the final clash of the War of 1812

ABOVE RIGHT:
Hundreds of books and manuscripts were destroyed when the Library of Congress went up in smoke

WORSE TO COME

A storm and heavy rainfall the following day put out the flames and prevented the city and buildings from being completely reduced to rubble; it became known as the 'storm that saved Washington'. But it also saw a tornado, which claimed several lives and caused damage to many of the buildings the British had left untouched. The British were forced to return to their ships just a day after they had taken the city.

THIS MONTH... 1814

ANNIVERSARIES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY

The action at Fort McHenry was part of the wider, three-day battle of Baltimore

The Treaty of Ghent ended the war on Christmas Eve in 1814 – though fighting continued until February

Instead of demoralising the US, the burning of Washington proved an act of inspiration. The British moved on to Baltimore, which, having heard the news of what had happened at Washington, was well defended. The battle that followed at nearby Fort McHenry on 13 September saw the British withdraw hastily after their defeat.

Neither Britain nor the US was hopeful of a decisive end to the war, and in December 1814 a peace was agreed. However, the news did not reach all areas of the United States for some months, with the final battle of the war, at New Orleans, taking place 15 days later, on 8 January 1815. It would be America's greatest victory of the conflict.

As Washington began to rise from the ashes, some senators ineffectually called for the country's capital to be relocated elsewhere, but the idea was dismissed. The President's House had to be extensively redeveloped, and most of the exterior walls were torn down and rebuilt – the walls that survived still have visible scorch marks. The project was complete by 1817 when President James Monroe moved in, and the Capitol was ready to use again two years later.

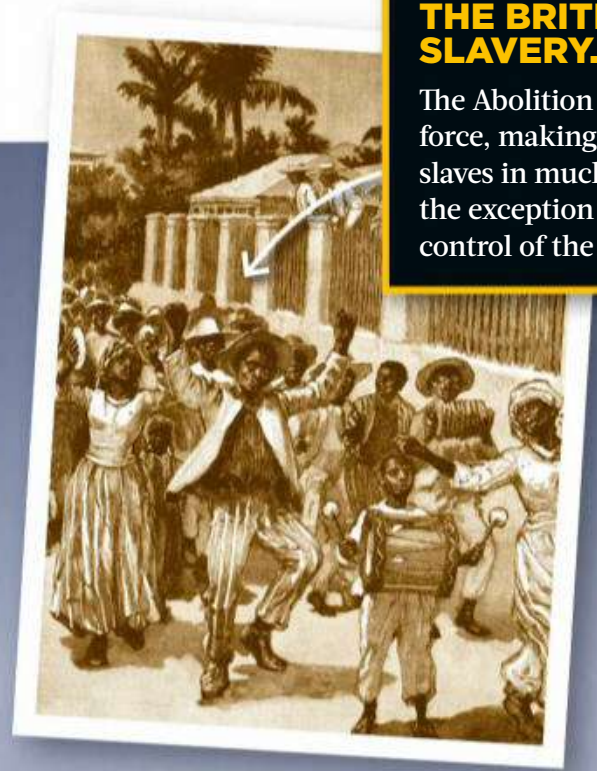
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT THREE OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN AUGUST THROUGHOUT HISTORY

5 August 910

THE VIKINGS ARE DEFEATED AT TETTENHALL

On the fields of Staffordshire, a major Viking threat is quashed at the battle of Tettenhall. The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia unite to drive out the Vikings of Northumbria – although it will be nearly three decades more before England is unified as one kingdom.



1 August 1834

THE BRITISH EMPIRE ENDS SLAVERY... ALMOST

The Abolition of Slavery Act comes into force, making it illegal to buy or own slaves in much of the British empire – with the exception of territories under the control of the East India Company.

8 August 1963

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

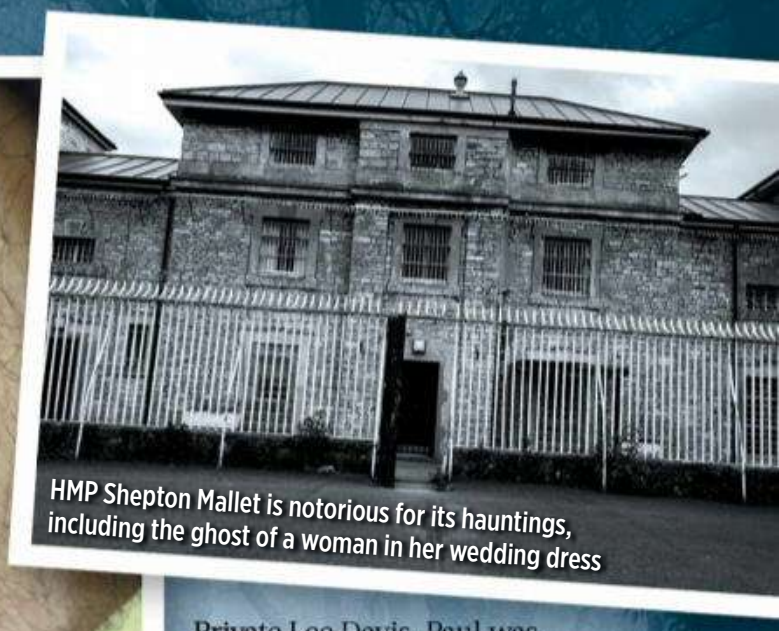
A gang of 15 robbers gets away with a record haul of £2.6m from a London-bound mail train in Buckinghamshire. Most of the money is never recovered and three of the gang members are never caught.

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

A prison open for four centuries is bound to have a few ghost stories, so BBC Radio's **Danny Robins** heads to HMP Shepton Mallet to ask the burning questions

HMP Shepton Mallet's site manager, Paul Toole, had a painful encounter with a World War II soldier

While telling the story of Private Lee Davis, Paul felt a searing pain in his hand... from a cigarette?



HMP Shepton Mallet is notorious for its hauntings, including the ghost of a woman in her wedding dress

I'm in prison. It's a crisp, dark night, the stars twinkle above me in the West Country sky and I am standing in the courtyard of HMP Shepton Mallet, formerly the oldest working prison in the UK until it finally closed its doors in 2013. Its most famous former residents were the Kray twins. There's talk of the prison buildings being redeveloped as apartments, but, until then, Shepton Mallet is open to the public as a macabre tourist attraction.

I'm here in response to an email I received from Paul Toole, the site manager. He told me he had been injured at work and showed me a photograph of a wound on his hand. But what bothered him was that the person he thought was to blame had been dead nearly 80 years, having been executed here in 1942. Yep, that got my attention...

If ghosts do exist, Shepton Mallet feels exactly the sort of place you'd find them. The prison opened in 1625 and over the centuries it developed a reputation as a place of unusually brutal punishment. As Paul leads me by torch light through the dark corridors of A Wing, he tells me how an official investigation was launched back in the 1950s when warders refused to work at night after allegedly spotting a 'white lady', rumoured to be the spirit of an 18th century female inmate who had murdered her fiancé. Her final wish before her execution was to put on her wedding dress.

But this is not the ghost I'm interested in. Paul believes his injury is linked to a more recent part of the prison's history. During World War II, Shepton Mallet was commandeered as an American military prison and housed more than 700 GIs who had committed crimes on British soil, 18 of whom were executed. Of those hanged or shot, 10 were black and three were Hispanic, at a time when the army was 90 per cent white. The trials often lasted just one day and were conducted in secret using unreliable or biased evidence. It's hard not to conclude that this was a racially motivated injustice.

ONE LAST CIGARETTE

Paul's torch illuminates our way into 'the hanging shed', the room where the GIs met their ends. The air feels thick and oppressive. Then he tells me the story of how, a few weeks before, he decided to tell a tour party he was leading the story of a black GI named Private Lee Davis. Paul was recounting the young man's final words, when suddenly: "I had a searing pain in my left hand. I looked down and it was red raw." He shows me his hand, which looks like it bears a cigarette burn.

Paul is convinced there's a link. He's been profoundly struck by the stories of the GIs and worries that the tours have somehow reanimated unhappy memories of the room; as if the pain and fear of the GIs has broken through into our present to the extent that Lee Davis' last cigarette as he stood at the gallows was actually responsible for burning Paul.

So, what do I believe? I've heard it said that you die twice: once when you stop breathing and once when people stop saying your name. Undoubtedly these wronged men do live on at Shepton Mallet. Whether you believe that's as spirits walking the corridors or just in the words of Paul and his fellow guides, I'll leave you to judge, but it feels important that their stories still haunt us today.

DANNY ROBINS is a writer, broadcaster, journalist and host of the podcast series *Haunted* on the Panoply Network

LISTEN

You can hear Danny Robins' investigation at Shepton Mallet Prison in episode six of his *Haunted* podcast – *The Man Who Upset a Ghost* – available on all podcast platforms

ALAMY X1, DANNY ROBINS X2, WILLIE RUNTE X1

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The Charter of the Forest

Words: Rhiannon Davies

WHAT WAS THE CHARTER OF THE FOREST?

The Charter of the Forest was a piece of legislation issued in 1217 on behalf of King Henry III, England's 10 year old monarch. The Charter curbed the unbridled power of the monarchy over England's forests and reasserted the rights of the common people.

Since the Norman Conquest of 1066, England's kings had been able to seize swathes of forest and turn them into hunting grounds, or Royal Forests, meant exclusively for their use. (It's worth noting that at this time, a 'forest' was not quite what we would think of today it could also refer to heaths, moorland, fields and even villages and towns in rural areas.)

This had deeply frustrated the barons, who were unable to develop land unless the king granted them the right to do so. It also caused great misery for the common folk, who had traditionally used the forests to sustain themselves cutting down trees for firewood and to build their huts; gathering water from streams; foraging for vegetables, fruits and nuts; and hunting the game that darted through the undergrowth.

WHAT CHANGES DID THE CHARTER HERALD?

The Charter contained 17 clauses, which were all centred around issues connected to forest land. It drastically reduced the amount of Royal Forest, by vowing that all land that had been claimed as royal hunting grounds by Henry II, King John and Richard the Lionheart would be "disafforested" if it was not legally part of their estates. It also reinstated the forest's status as common land, meant for the use of the community.

According to the Charter, "every free man" could gather firewood there and was entitled to "conduct his pigs through our... wood freely and without impediment". Moreover, every person that resided in the forest was allowed to "make in his wood or in land he has in the forest a mill, a preserve, a pond, a marl pit, a ditch, or arable outside the covert in arable land, on condition that it does not harm any neighbour."

A 19th-century image imagines the future Henry III on a hunt with Lord Harrington. Issued during the second year of his reign, the Charter of the Forest reduced the size of royal hunting grounds

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1

> "Rights had been granted to the nobility and clergy before, but never to the common people"

Thus, the Charter took power out of the hands of the king and returned it to the people who lived and worked in the forests. This was a watershed moment in England's history: rights had been granted to the nobility and clergy before, but never to the common people.

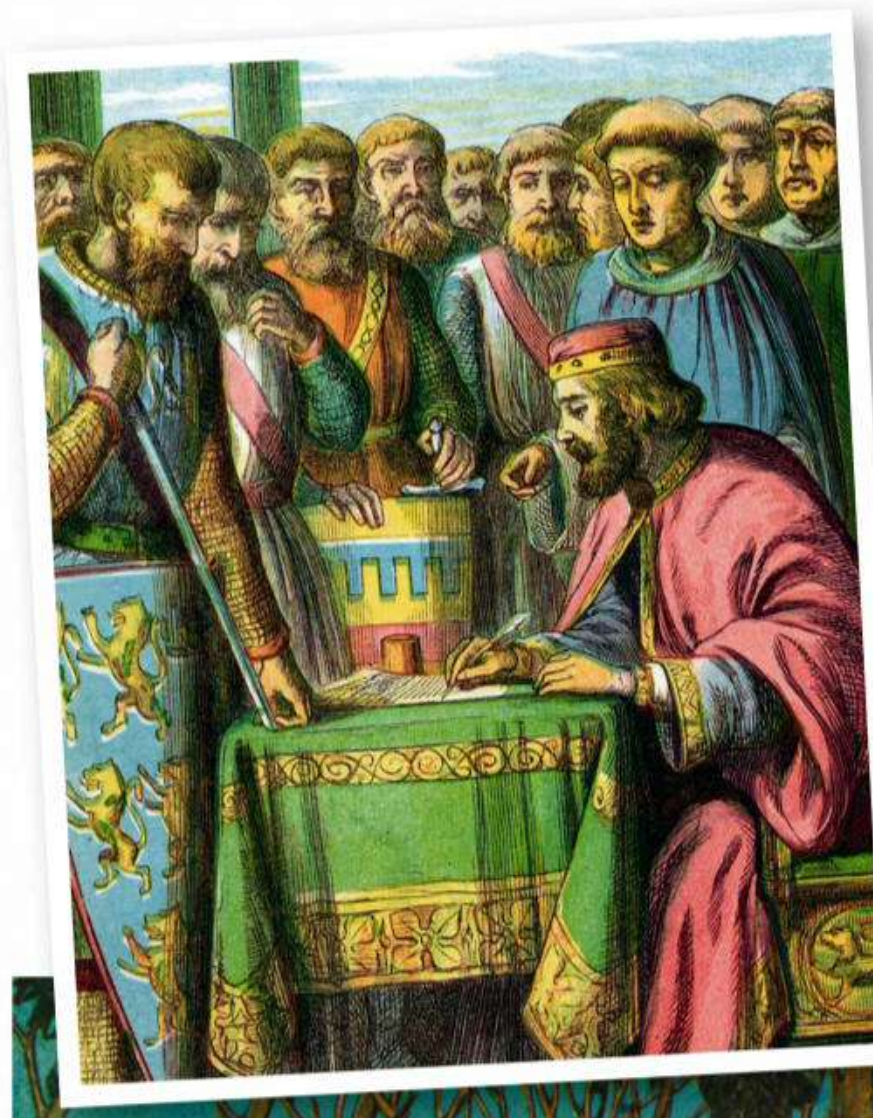
The Charter of the Forest was sealed in St Paul's Cathedral, London, on 6 November 1217

HOW IS THE CHARTER OF THE FOREST LINKED TO MAGNA CARTA?

In 1215, when Magna Carta (then called the 'Charter of Liberties') was sealed by King John, it included four clauses related to the Royal Forests: as well as signalling improvements to the enforcing of Forest Law, there was also a vow to turn the Royal Forests John had created back into common land, as well as the riverbanks he had claimed for his own.

However, the document was quickly repealed, and in 1217 the new boy king – Henry III – issued a fresh version. This time, though, there was one major change. All four clauses relating to the forest were removed from the original document, expanded upon and put into a new charter: the Charter of the Forest. At the time, this newly created charter was seen as just as important as Magna Carta.

While Magna Carta was largely devoted to the problems that affected society's elites, the Charter of the Forest was more useful to everyday people – most of all for those whose homes were in, or close to, a Royal Forest.



Magna Carta – sealed by King John in 1215 – contained four clauses relating to the Royal Forests

HOW DID THE NORMANS CHANGE THE USE OF FORESTS?

In 1066, William the Conqueror and his Norman followers totally transformed England's forests. William brought the French tradition of Royal Forests – land that was marked out as royal hunting grounds, where the monarch could come to shoot deer and spear fish – to his newly conquered territory. These Royal Forests sprung up all over England: by 1086, around 25 of them had been created, including Sherwood Forest and the New Forest.

The kings who succeeded William continued this practice, with each monarch creating more Royal Forests. Henry II in particular claimed huge swathes of land, as he apparently found great solace in his monumental hunting grounds. His royal treasurer, Richard fitz Nigel, commented: "In the forests are the kings' retreats and their greatest delights. For they go there to hunt, leaving their cares behind, to refresh themselves with a little rest." By the early 13th century, approximately one-third of southern England had been turned into Royal Forests – and those who lived in them had to adhere to the onerous Forest Law.

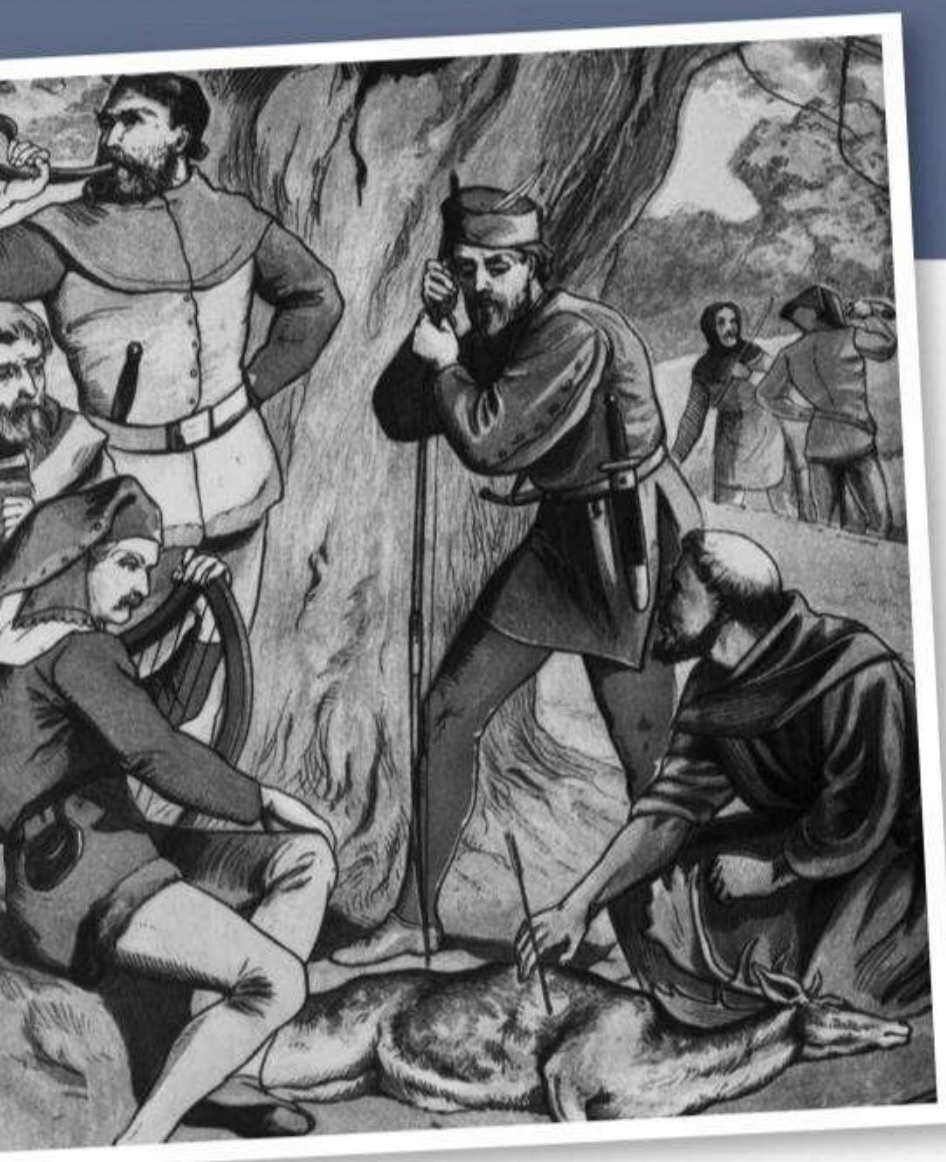
This law was meant to protect the royal hunting ground – from the animals living there that the king would wish to hunt, to the trees that game would shelter below. Therefore, according to Forest Law, no one living on land that was designated a Royal Forest could impinge on its suitability as a hunting ground. People were prohibited from constructing buildings, hunting animals or fish, cutting down trees or bushes, and putting their animals out to pasture. The *Peterborough Chronicle* stated of the Forest Law: "Powerful men complained of it and poor men lamented it."

Royal foresters were tasked with

"During King Richard the Lionheart's rule, anyone who killed a deer would be blinded and mutilated"

A 1930s depiction of a Norman hunt. The invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066 marked the beginning of England's Royal Forests

GETTY IMAGES X4



An engraving shows the legendary figure of Robin Hood with his Merry Men, having shot a deer in Sherwood Forest. While killing the animals remained illegal, the 1217 Charter of the Forest lessened the severity of the punishment

making sure that these strict regulations were followed – and those who broke Forest Law often faced serious consequences.

WHAT PUNISHMENTS WERE DOLED OUT FOR BREAKING FOREST LAW?

Punishments were often extreme: according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, King William I decreed that the killing of deer and boar in his hunting grounds was strictly forbidden, and anyone who slew a deer "should be deprived of his eyesight". And during King Richard the Lionheart's rule, anyone who killed a deer would be blinded and mutilated – although Richard was only in England for a handful of months throughout his entire reign, and he rarely went on hunts when he was in the country.

As well as corporal punishment, fines were often imposed on those who broke Forest Law. If a royal forester couldn't track down the individual who had flouted Forest Law, they could fine the whole community. These hefty fiscal penalties went straight into the royal coffers: King John, for example, received a large portion of his income from them.

The Charter of the Forest lessened the severity of punishments, although the killing of deer was still deemed illegal, as they all belonged to the monarch. As the tenth clause of the Charter stated: "No one shall henceforth lose life or limb because of our venison, but if anyone has been arrested and convicted of taking venison he shall be fined heavily if he has the means; and if he has not the means, he shall lie in our prison for a year and a day."

HOW LONG DID THE CHARTER OF THE FOREST REMAIN PART OF ENGLISH LAW?

The Charter has the accolade of being the longest standing statute in England's history. On 11 February 1225 Henry III issued his final version of Magna Carta along with a revised version of the Charter of the Forest, which is now regarded as the definitive version.

It was reissued numerous times after this, including in 1297, when King Edward I reconfirmed it and Magna Carta in the Confirmation of the Charters. He declared that the two documents would become England's common law, and twice a year they both should be read out loud in every cathedral in the land.

In 1642, the Charter was still part of law and relatively well-known, although in later centuries it faded into obscurity. The 16th/17th century jurist and politician Sir Edward Coke reflected on the Charters: "It is called Magna Charta, not that it is great in quantity... nor comparatively in respect that it is greater than Charta de Foresta, but in respect of the great importance, and weightiness of the matter, as hereafter shall appeare: and likewise for the same cause Charta de Foresta is called Magna Charta de Foresta, and both of them are called Magnae Chartae Libertatum Angliae [Great Charters of English Liberties]."

The Charter of the Forest was only repealed in 1971, when the Wild Creatures and Forest Laws Act took its place. As part of this act, the monarchy lost its claim over "wild creatures... together with any prerogative right to set aside land or water for the breeding, support or taking of wild creatures; and any franchises of forest, free chase, park or free warren."

WHAT IS ITS LEGACY TODAY?

Even though the Charter of the Forest no longer remains part of English law, it has continued to have a huge impact – in Britain and beyond. In 2015, for instance, the UK Forestry Commission was embroiled in a case about whether sheep could graze freely in the Forest of Dean, as claimants argued that this right had been given to them by the Charter of the Forest.

And in the US, the Charter has influenced laws relating to the regulation of forests and natural resources. Forests are viewed as common lands, which can be used by all who live there – this concept perhaps finds its best expression in the country's National Parks, which are meant to be enjoyed by all citizens.

Centuries on, the Charter of the Forest continues to shape how we use our land, all over the world.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 An episode of BBC Radio 4 series *Making History* explores the Charter of the Forest in detail: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08zc1z7*

One of Canterbury Cathedral's 'Miracle Windows' tells the story of Adam the Forester, who was shot in the neck with a poacher's arrow and survived by drinking waters said to contain the blood of martyr Saint Thomas Becket

Queen Anne's turbulent life and reign

The last of the Stuarts is often remembered for her weak intellect and tendency to be swayed by her 'favourites', yet her life was full of heartbreak and disappointment

Born in 1665 during the reign of her uncle, King Charles II, Anne Stuart was not raised with the expectation of inheriting the throne. She was the second surviving child of James, Duke of York, by his first wife, Anne Hyde, and raised much like other female royals of the period. At the behest of the king, she and her elder sister Mary's early education focused solely on the teachings of the Church of England.

Then Princess Anne was unwittingly drawn into a political struggle as religious tensions in England were inflamed. Following her mother's death in 1671, her father who abandoned the Anglican faith married the devoutly Catholic Maria Beatrice of Modena. A strong party in parliament fearful of Catholics attempted to pass laws preventing James from succeeding to the throne. Princess Mary would meanwhile marry the Protestant William of Orange and, in 1683, Anne entered into an arranged, yet happy, marriage with Prince George of Denmark.

When Charles II died in 1685 on Anne's 20th birthday her father did succeed as James II, but his aggressive Catholicism alienated the English establishment, and just three years later, a group of powerful men invited William of Orange to invade from the Netherlands and rule jointly with Mary. This so called 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688 was supported by Anne and her husband, though she later came to regret that choice.

Just months after their coronation in 1689, Anne, who had already suffered numerous miscarriages and lost two daughters to smallpox, gave birth to a son. It was a welcome presence of a Protestant heir, but hopes of a family dynasty soon shrank as Anne and Mary began quarrelling. When the now William III removed the Earl of Marlborough, John Churchill, from his court and military posts, Mary also insisted that Anne part company with John's wife, Sarah her closest friend and 'favourite'. Refusing to obey her sister's command, Anne left court, marking the start of an estrangement that never healed before Mary's death in 1694. To

Portrait of Anne and her husband, Prince George of Denmark, by Charles Boit; his death in 1708 left her devastated

Anne's eternal dismay, her son William, Duke of Gloucester, also died in 1700, a few days after his 11th birthday. Anne, traumatised and physically deteriorating, was heir, but seemed a long way from the throne.

WAR AT HOME AND ABROAD

William never remarried and died childless in 1702; at his death, Anne, at the age of 37, became queen. Within a few weeks, she named the restored Marlborough her captain general and her friend Sidney Godolphin as lord treasurer; two men who for most of Anne's reign executed her policies at home and abroad. When England went to war, it was the former who led the queen's armies to significant victories, most notably in the battle of Blenheim in 1704.

While the War of the Spanish Succession was going well, domestic politics in England became increasingly fierce as the Tories and Whigs vied for power. Parliamentary supremacy over the monarchy did not prevent Anne, who favoured the Tories, from involving herself by attending cabinet meetings and voicing her views, and despite being subject to partisan pressure from both sides, she managed to prevent party passions from erupting into violence with each shift of the political landscape.

Anne was also an ardent advocate for the union of England and Scotland into a single kingdom. The two nations had been ruled by the same monarch since 1603, but it would be during her reign that the Acts of Union were passed, in 1707.

END OF THE LINE

Over the next few years, though, Anne's personal tragedies only worsened, beginning with the death of her beloved husband, George, in 1708 and then the end of her once inseparable relationship with Sarah Churchill. Instead, the queen found solace in a new favourite: a cousin of Sarah's named Abigail Masham. After both Marlboroughs were dismissed, as well as Godolphin, the constants in Anne's life on whom she had relied for decades had gone.

On 1 August 1714, the 49 year old Anne died, worn out physically and mentally. As she had no surviving children, the Stuart line came to an end and the crown passed to the House of Hanover, in accordance with the Act of Settlement passed in 1701 to ensure a Protestant succession. George I became the first Hanoverian king of Great Britain.

History has rarely been kind to Anne's legacy judging her as weak willed, ignorant and manipulated by others, a view stemming from the memoirs of the embittered Sarah Churchill but her reign saw Britain united and enjoy a period of stability and prosperity. Arts, architecture and culture flourished, so that we still talk of the 'Queen Anne style' today. She adapted as monarchy gave way to parliamentary authority, yet still imposed her will when she could. And Anne did this while facing constant illness and unbearable heartbreak.

JAMES ANDERSON WINN, who passed away in 2019, was a professor of English at Boston University and author of *Queen Anne: Patroness of Arts* (Oxford University Press, 2014). A version of this piece was originally published on our website, *historyextra.com*, in 2019

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X2, BRIDGEMAN X1

Anne in her coronation robes. By the time she was crowned in 1702, her struggles with gout meant she had to be carried in a sedan chair

"History has rarely been kind to Anne, but her reign saw Britain united and enjoy a period of stability and prosperity"

LEFT: **England's victory at the 1704 battle of Blenheim (depicted here by artist John Wootton), was masterminded by the husband of Anne's 'favourite'**

FAR LEFT: **Anne with her only child to live past infancy, William. She suffered a number of miscarriages, and further tragedy struck when the boy died aged 11**

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PODCAST

Professor Sir Richard J Evans discusses life in Nazi Germany on the HistoryExtra podcast: *historyextra.com/nazi-germany-qa*

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YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY

The rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party fundamentally changed the course of the 20th century, leading to a brutal war that engulfed much of the globe and left millions of people dead. But what was life like for those living in Germany at the time, witnessing the transformation of a minor far-right party into a powerful fascist dictatorship?

Featuring expert insight from historian Professor Sir Richard J Evans, this month's essential guide tells the story of Adolf Hitler's despotic regime, examining the policies that persuaded ordinary Germans to throw their support behind the Nazi cause. From literature to music, we look at how the party's hateful ideology infiltrated virtually every aspect of German life, and the ways in which organisations such as the Hitler Youth sought to convince children that the Führer was the nation's saviour.

Crucially, we also cast a light on the experiences of Jewish people and other groups who were persecuted by the Third Reich, and examine the terrifying tactics used by the likes of the SS to clamp down on political dissent.

First, though, we begin over the page with a timeline charting the initial growth of the Nazi Party in the years after World War I...

30 The road to the Reichstag
An overview of the key milestones on the Nazis' path from fringe political movement to Germany's ruling party

32 Everything you wanted to know about Nazi Germany
Professor Sir Richard J Evans answers our questions about life in the Third Reich

36 Hitler's rise to power
Discover how the events of World War I and the Great Depression led ordinary Germans to put their faith in the hands of the Nazi leader

39 Economic and social policies
Learn how the Nazis extended their control to virtually every aspect of German life: from what people farmed, to how they spent their leisure time

42 Hitler's children
Inside the regime's attempts to brainwash young people into accepting Nazi ideals

46 The Nazi top brass
Discover the figures who occupied the most senior positions in the Third Reich

48 Victims of the Holocaust
How the Nazis' relentless persecution of Jews and other minority groups would culminate in the mass murder of millions

52 Women in Nazi Germany
Learn about the regime's views on women and its plans to create a 'master race'

54 Propaganda and control
From radio broadcasts to rallies, we examine the variety of tactics used by Joseph Goebbels to promote the Nazis' poisonous ideology

56 The foreign press
How did British and American journalists report on events in Nazi Germany?

PROFESSOR SIR RICHARD J EVANS is a world-renowned historian of 19th and 20th-century Germany and Europe. He has published more than 20 books in the field, including *The Third Reich in History and Memory* (Little, Brown, 2015).

THE ROAD TO THE R

How a small right-wing group became Germany's ruling party

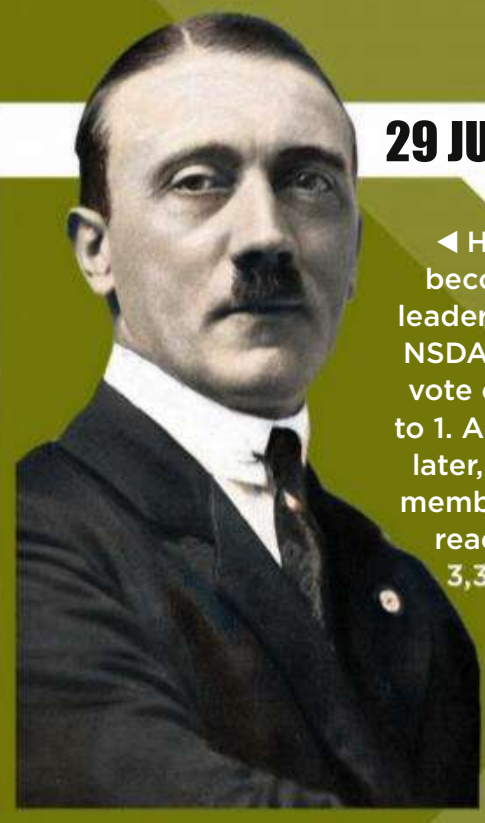
WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

5 JAN 1919

◀ The right-wing German Workers' Party (DAP) is founded in Munich, promoting anti-Semitism and German nationalism. Eight months later, a 30-year-old Adolf Hitler becomes the party's 55th member.

24 FEB 1920

The DAP, having changed its name to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) – later known as the Nazi Party – announces its new programme, setting out its intentions to remove the political, legal and civil rights of Jews.



29 JUL 1921

◀ Hitler becomes leader of the NSDAP by a vote of 533 to 1. A month later, party membership reaches 3,300.

4 AUG 1921

▲ The *Sturmabteilung* (SA), or Brownshirts, is formed as the Nazi's paramilitary organisation.

30 JAN 1933

▼ Hoping to be able to control him, Hindenburg finally makes Hitler chancellor.

31 JUL 1932

▲ The Reichstag elections see the Nazis become the largest single party, with 230 seats. It is not enough to form a majority, though, and Hitler's demands to be made chancellor are rebuffed. A second election in November sees the Nazis lose 34 seats, but remain the largest party.

10 APR 1932

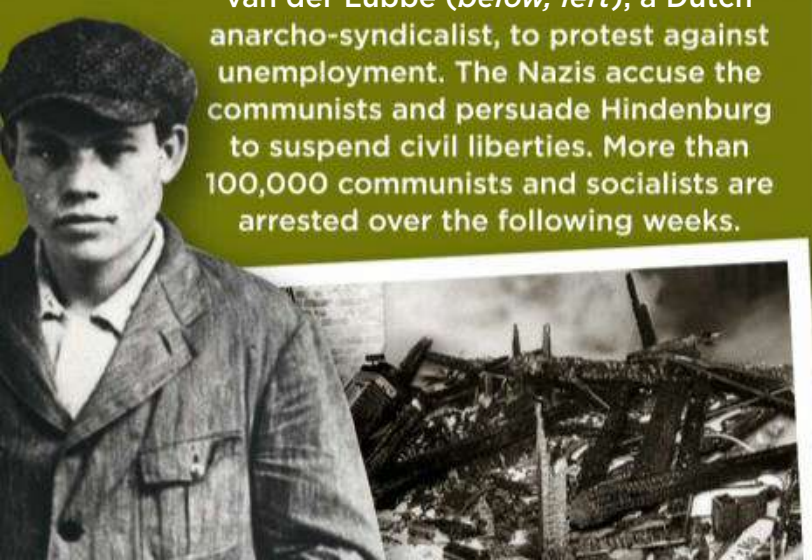
Hitler comes second to incumbent Paul von Hindenburg in the presidential election runoff, gaining 36.8 per cent of the votes; a federal election the same year gives the Nazi Party an opportunity to win a majority.

25 FEB 1932

▼ Hitler, an Austrian, is granted German citizenship by the then federal state of Brunswick, where the Nazi Party has been part of a coalition government since 1930; this allows him to stand for president. Upon naturalisation, Hitler comments: "You should congratulate Germany, not me!"

27 FEB 1933

▼ The Reichstag building, home of the German parliament in Berlin, is burned down. The fire is started by Marinus van der Lubbe (*below, left*), a Dutch anarcho-syndicalist, to protest against unemployment. The Nazis accuse the communists and persuade Hindenburg to suspend civil liberties. More than 100,000 communists and socialists are arrested over the following weeks.



5 MAR 1933

▲ The Nazi Party wins 288 seats in the Reichstag elections, and gain an overall majority with their nationalist coalition partners.

23 MAR 1933

▼ Following intimidation by the SA, the Reichstag votes to give Hitler's cabinet the authority to make laws without their approval for four years. The Enabling Act, as it is known, gives him absolute power as a lawmaker.

14 JUL 1933

As part of moves to consolidate power, Hitler bans all political parties, other than the Nazis, in Germany.

GETTY IMAGES X6 ALAMY X12

EICHSTAG

9 NOV 1923

Hitler and the Nazi Party lead the Beer Hall Putsch, an attempt to overthrow the Bavarian state government and spark insurrection against the Weimar Republic. Guilty of treason, Hitler is sentenced to five years in fortress confinement, but serves just nine months.

27 FEB 1925

Shortly after his release, Hitler re-establishes the Nazi Party as a political organisation, which will campaign legally to win votes in democratic elections. He becomes its new leader (Führer).

9 NOV 1925

▶ The *Schutzstaffel* (SS) is officially formed as a small sub-division of the SA, with around 300 members (*right*). Initially Hitler's personal bodyguard, the organisation will expand dramatically from 1929.

DEC 1931

▲ By the end of 1931, membership of the SA reaches 260,000.

14 SEP 1930

The German Federal election sees Nazi Party representation in parliament rocket to 107, making it the second-largest party in Germany. The Communist Party of Germany also does well, with its seats increasing to 77.

20 MAY 1928

◀ The Nazi Party gains just 12 seats in the Reichstag in Germany's federal election. This year also sees the SA begin a period of violence towards the *Roter Frontkämpferbund* (Red Front Fighters' League), an organ of the Communist Party (*left*).

14 FEB 1926

Hitler calls a conference in Bamberg to heal divisions between the socialist and nationalist sides of the Nazi Party and establish the *Führerprinzip*, or 'leader principle', stating that the party leader is to have absolute control.

30 AUG 1933

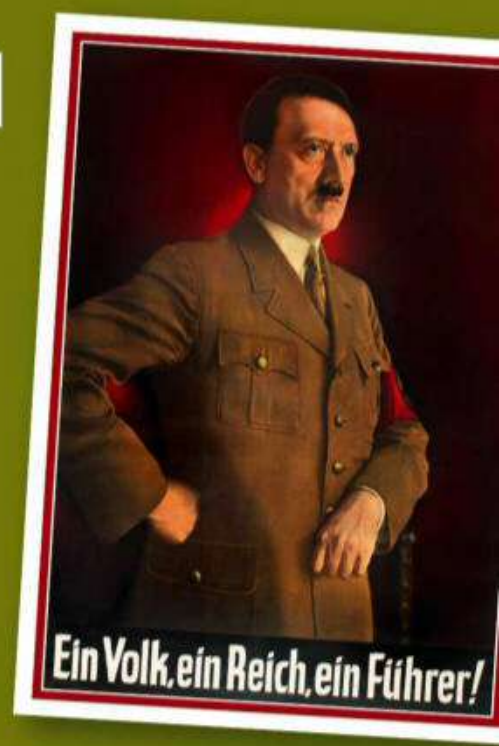
▲ The Fifth Party Congress, or the Rally of Victory, is held in Nuremberg until 3 September. Hitler announces that all future rallies will take place in the city.

30 JUN 1934

▼ The SS, on Hitler's instructions, murder 150–200 members of the SA, including its leader Ernst Röhm (*below*), as well as several other rivals. The Night of the Long Knives removes all internal opposition to the Nazis.

19 AUG 1934

▶ Following President Hindenburg's death, Hitler unifies the offices of president and chancellor and makes himself head of state. As Führer, he is now absolute ruler of Germany. ⊙



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY

Professor Sir Richard J Evans answers key questions about the lives of ordinary Germans under the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler

STUDENTEN
SEID PROPA-GANDISTEN DES FÜHRERS
HOCH-u.FACHSCHULEN BEKENNEN SICH AM 29.MÄRZ ZUR DEUTSCHEN FREIHEITSBEWEGUNG

ABOVE: **A poster urges students to support the Nazi cause and spread its propaganda**

ABOVE LEFT: **In an arresting example of 'start them young', a schoolteacher waves off her wards with the Nazi salute**

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

Q: When we talk about Nazi Germany, what timeframe does this cover and what events bookend that period?

A: Well, it officially begins on 30 January 1933, which is when the leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi Party), Adolf Hitler, was appointed chancellor of the Weimar Republic. That's to say, the head of the government under its president, Field Marshal von Hindenburg. There's then about six months where the Nazis turn their position as head of a coalition government with conservatives – in which they [the Nazis] were a minority – into a one-party state and dictatorship with Hitler as its head. At the other end, I would say Nazi Germany can be seen to end either on 30 April 1945, when Hitler, faced with Soviet troops entering Berlin, took his own life in his bunker underneath the Reich Chancellery, or on 8 May 1945, when what was left of the German army surrendered to the Allies.

Q: What was life like for children in Nazi Germany?

A: Hitler said that the aim was to bring up children as physically fit and healthy if they were so-called Aryans, that is, not if they were of mixed origin, with Slavic blood, or least of all with Jewish heritage. From 1936, non-Jewish, non-Slavic, non-foreign-born German children were obliged to enrol in the Hitler Youth or the League of German Girls, the former being essentially aimed at preparation for war.

From a very early age, children had to wear uniforms. At school, the day began with singing Nazi anthems and saluting the Nazi flag. They had to go on lots of camps and expeditions, which included drills and military terms. Both girls and boys were indoctrinated – not just by those organisations, but also in schools themselves. School textbooks were rewritten to become instruments of Nazi ideology.

Some children enjoyed this; it was probably quite nice to spend weekends in the countryside, camping out, singing patriotic songs, and so on. But the idea that these youth organisations would be run by young people themselves was never really fulfilled. It was older

MAIN: **Firefighters try to stop a fire at a synagogue from spreading to a nearby home on Kristallnacht, 1938 – while making no effort to save the synagogue itself**

RIGHT: **The smashed windows of a Jewish-owned shop the morning after the pogrom**

INSET: **Joseph Goebbels was the Reich Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda**

"OLDER GERMANS WERE MORE INCLINED TO LOOK ON IN HORROR OR IN SYMPATHY WITH THE JEWISH VICTIMS"

Nazis members of the *Sturmabteilung* ('Brownshirts') who were put in charge of them, and they were quite authoritarian and often rather brutal. Children soon got bored with the ideology, so the scheme was only partially successful. But there was a whole generation under the Nazis who were heavily indoctrinated.

You can see one example of this in the notorious Reich pogrom, the so called Night of Broken Glass on 9 10 November 1938, when Hitler and his minister of propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, unleashed attacks on Jews, and burned down Jewish property and synagogues. Some 7,500 Jewish shops were smashed up and many young people took part in the attacks joining in with the destruction, smashing windows and helping beat up Jews on the streets, for example. Older Germans, on the other hand, whose ideas had been formed before 1933, were more inclined to look on in horror or in sympathy with the Jewish victims, or were appalled at the destruction of property and violence.

Q: How did the Nazis convince the public to carry out such atrocious acts on Jewish people?

A: We should never think of the German public at this time as a single entity; it was extremely diverse and divided by religion, by class, by region. It was also divided into active Nazis members of the party and the SS [*Schutzstaffel*, political soldiers of the Nazi Party] and the armed forces and what can be called the more passive public on the other.

We know a lot about how people felt because the Nazis received continual reports on a very local basis. The Social Democratic Party (SPD), which, along with all other political parties in Germany, had been banned by the Nazis in the summer of 1933, also had secret reports smuggled out to their headquarters in exile, to keep tabs on what people were saying and thinking.

Some people did buy into the Nazi view that German Jews, and then later other European Jews, were a huge threat and should be exterminated. But a lot of Germans, particularly in the Catholic south, felt that this was wrong. There are records of people saying that it was wrong when Jews were taken away from towns in south Germany put on trains and taken east. But they felt powerless to do anything about it.

Later on, when the strategic bombing of German cities by the Allies escalated dramatically (from 1942 early 1943), Goebbels tried to persuade Germans that this was being steered from behind the scenes by the Jews, in revenge for what the Nazis tacitly admitted they had been doing to them. Again, when Goebbels tried to publicise atrocities committed by the Red Army in 1944, when it had invaded eastern parts of Germany, there are records of people, particularly in Catholic towns in the south, saying: "Well, we should have expected this, it's what we've done to the Jews; we can't be too outraged by it, the atrocities are real".

Lots of people did buy into the idea that it was the Jews who were behind the Allied war efforts, and, ridiculously, behind Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt.

Hitler gives his final speech before the 12 November 1933 parliamentary election – by this time, all opposing political parties had been banned in Germany

DID YOU KNOW?

BIRTHDAY EXCESS

Hitler's 50th birthday, on 20 April 1939, was celebrated as a national holiday across Germany. Festivities included a huge, nearly five-hour long military parade with Luftwaffe flypast. One publishing house erected a 25-foot portrait of Hitler, complete with floodlights and flags.

A cordon of Nazis bar Jews from a university in Vienna

LEFT: **An anti-Semitic cartoon from a Bulgarian pro-Nazi propaganda magazine shows Franklin D Roosevelt in the pocket of a Jew. Images like this were effective: many Germans *did* believe that Jews supported Allied war efforts**

FAR LEFT: **A sign urges Germans not to buy from a Jewish-owned store**

◀ To that extent, the huge propaganda apparatus of Goebbels had scored a victory. It was the effect of years of indoctrination in schools, in youth groups, in the military and workplace, in huge organisations like the Labour Front and the Nazi Party, and, of course, all the controlled orchestrated media – newsreels, cinema, magazines, newspapers and radio. All of these had been blasting out anti-Jewish propaganda since 1933.

Although anti-Jewish propaganda had some success, we shouldn't assume that all Germans supported it, though. The regime succeeded in separating the Jewish community from the non-Jewish majority, but there were some small groups who tried secretly to help Jewish people.

We can see the contrast from 1933, in the early stages of the Nazi regime. On 1 April 1933, the Nazis launched a nationwide boycott of Jewish-owned shops. Huge numbers of Germans objected to this and questioned why they shouldn't go into the shops they had always visited, who sold good products that were reasonably cheap, or that were owned by people they knew. It certainly wasn't the case that the Nazis tapped into pre-existing, extreme anti-Jewish sentiment in Germany.

Q: Did most German citizens fear the Nazis or simply acquiesce?

A: I think the answer is both, really, depending on who you were. The Nazis kept a very close eye on former activists for the socialists and communists. They had what were called block wardens; in cities and towns, every street block was looked after by an active Nazi. And in working-class areas with high degrees of support for the communists and socialists, the Nazis put in middle-class or lower-middle-class Nazi Party members who had no love for the socialists and made sure that if there was any resistance movement – secret meetings in flats and so on – they would be found out and punished.

People had to put up Nazi flags on Hitler's birthday and there was a lot of coercion. The numbers of people imprisoned shot up in the Nazi period so there was a lot of fear.

But at the same time, there was also a lot of acquiescence. Most people just wanted a quiet life. They wanted to get on with their jobs and their lives, raise their families. There was a certain retreat into private life under the Nazis, because to take part in public life, you had to be an active Nazi and do all sorts of things that many people really didn't want to do.

By 1939, there was a kind of tacit agreement that people wouldn't object to the Nazis or oppose them (apart from some very small resistance groups),

These children are being handed cake to celebrate Hitler's birthday – just one more example of the cult of personality surrounding the dictator

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3, WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY COLLECTIONS X1

MAIN: **Hitler with the papal nuncio Archbishop Cesare Orsenigo in 1935; the Nazi Party would try and bring the Catholic Church in Germany under its control**

LEFT: **Two men of the SA, or 'Brownshirts' – the party's paramilitary wing – promote their anti-Semitism to all who will listen**

"NAZI POPULARITY PEAKED IN 1940. AFTER THAT, AS THE WAR BECAME MORE DESTRUCTIVE, PEOPLE BEGAN TO LOSE FAITH"

and in turn the Nazis wouldn't make too many demands on them. This agreement changed during the war, though, because one of the main objectives of Nazism was to make the Germans love war, and the great majority of Germans didn't. Many had already been through World War I and had seen the death and destruction of that conflict; they didn't want that repeated.

One of the reasons Nazi foreign policy up to 1939 was so successful, was because it made Germany great again, as it were, without a lot of bloodshed. The great foreign policy triumphs, such as the remilitarisation of the Rhineland and the annexation of Austria, the Anschluss, the annexation and destruction of Czechoslovakia, the victories over Poland and then France and western European countries, were all achieved very quickly at a minimal cost in lives, and made the Nazis incredibly popular. Nazi popularity peaked in 1940, really. After that, as the war became more destructive and claimed more lives, people began to lose faith in the party.

How German people reacted to the Nazis is complicated, though. I think they appreciated the Nazis for restoring the economy, though a lot of that was done by statistical manipulation and trickery. But ironically, there was popular appreciation of the Nazis' restoration of law and order, even though in the late years of Weimar Republic a lot of the disruption on the streets was actually *caused* by the Nazis.

Most people didn't like their attacks on religion: Catholics in particular were not happy about Nazi attempts to curb the Catholic Church and bring it under their control. And many Germans didn't particularly like the Nazi education system, as well as other aspects of the regime. It was a very mixed picture.

Q: How many black people, citizens or otherwise, lived in Germany at this time and how were they treated in comparison to other minority groups?

A: There were about 500, I would say, either black people or mixed-race African-German people living in Nazi Germany, and they had already been the focus of massive ultranationalist propaganda in the Weimar Republic that had ruled previously.

In 1923, when Germany defaulted on its reparations payments [for the damage suffered by Britain and France during World War I], the French occupied the Ruhr (the heavily industrialised area in western Germany). They sent in troops to requisition coal, iron ore, and other substitutes in lieu of the reparations payments. And these troops included black troops from the then French colony of Senegal and other parts of French Africa. This gave rise to a massive racist outcry on the far right, including by the Nazi Party.

When the Nazi regime began in 1933, the black and mixed-race Germans residing in the country were said to be 'Rhineland bastards'; in other words, they were alleged to be the offspring of rapes carried out on German women by these Senegalese/French-African troops in 1923. The result of that was that these black and mixed-race Germans were forcibly sterilised by the Nazis.

The allegation of the rapes was, of course, a complete propaganda lie. Most of Germany's black and mixed-race inhabitants were the offspring of consensual unions in the German colonies before 1918 – Germany had had its own colonial empire, including Cameroon, which was then handed over to the French and British at the end of World War I. So these men and women were the children of unions mostly between white German settlers and black African women. The numbers of rapes in the Rhineland during the occupation of 1923 was actually extremely small, but these 500 or so people were all tarred with the same racist brush and were forcibly sterilised under the Nazis.

Some black and mixed-race people also appeared in films, created by the Nazi film industry, about what they [the Nazis] depicted as 'heroic' German settlers and explorers – these black Germans were deployed as extras on set, playing 'African tribesmen'.

Other black and mixed-race people were employed in the entertainment industry in one way or another, but they also had a very hard time – stigmatised and maltreated.

BELOW: **Ronnie Roberts (*pictured below left with his mother and sister in c1924*) was the son of a white German mother and a British/Barbadian father. Like hundeds of other black and mixed-race Germans, Ronnie experienced racist persecution at the hands of the Nazis**

SIR RICHARD J EVANS is a leading historian of Nazi Germany and regius professor emeritus of history at the University of Cambridge. His books include *The Third Reich in History and Memory* (Little, Brown, 2015)

LEFT: **Anti-communist *Freikorps* militias were a common sight on Berlin streets after WWI**

BELOW LEFT: **Hitler as head of the NSDAP in 1925**

MAIN: **A formidable orator, Hitler could draw crowds of thousands – allowing him the chance to set out his own agenda**

THE NAZI PARTY'S RISE TO POWER

The tumultuous, deprived years that followed World War I proved a fertile ground for a new type of German politics

Germany, in the immediate years following World War I, was a mightily unstable place. Dangerous, too. Paramilitaries, known as *Freikorps*, roamed the streets, eager to violently suppress any communist uprisings. The ideologies of these right-wing militias – anti-big business, anti-bourgeois and anti-Semitic – were also shared by a new political entity: the *Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*, aka the DAP, aka the German Workers' Party.

Formed in January 1919 by, among others, German nationalist and Munich locksmith Anton Drexler, the DAP's opposition to international capitalism ran parallel to its distrust of Jews, whom they believed controlled the global economy. Believing Germans to be part of an Aryan 'master race', the party represented the convergence of populist nationalism and economic socialism.

The DAP initially comprised a few dozen members and met in secret. Nonetheless, it did attract the suspicions of the German army who appointed a decorated World War I veteran, one Adolf Hitler, as an intelligence agent to infiltrate the party. It was an appointment that, eventually, would have very dire consequences.

DAP officials were quickly impressed by Hitler's oratorical skills and offered him party membership which, on approval from his superiors in the army, he accepted. Indeed, so strong were Hitler's communication skills that he was soon put in charge of the party's propaganda. Opposed to the secrecy the DAP had operated under thus far, Hitler would give speeches before several hundred people. But he didn't exactly toe the party line.

Anton Drexler was ousted as chairman to make way for Hitler

At the Hofbräuhaus beer cellar in Munich in February 1920, an audience of around 2,000 heard a speech in which Hitler decried the existing DAP manifesto. In the same month, the party changed its name to the National Socialist German Workers' Party; the word 'socialist' was an

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X4

It was while in fortress confinement that Hitler (*below, far left*) wrote the first volume of his famous autobiographical tract *Mein Kampf*

Bavarian beer halls with the promise of free beer for attendees.

Hitler's ultimate aim was to extinguish the Weimar Republic, and events in Italy in 1922 showed that such a power grab was possible – there, another right-wing figure with ambitions of absolute power, Benito Mussolini, had staged a successful coup. Mussolini and Hitler were cut from the same cloth: both were opposed to communism and liberalism, and were keen to expand their country's territory. Hitler even adopted Mussolini's straight arm salute.

In 1923, inspired by Mussolini's March on Rome the previous year, Hitler led an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Bavarian state government. The putsch began at a beer hall (Bürgerbräukeller) on 8 November and ended with a march to the Field Marshals' Hall the following day, where the Bavarian state police opened fire on the 3,000 marchers: 14 Nazis and four police officers were killed. The NSDAP was subsequently outlawed and its leaders, Hitler among them, were imprisoned for treason. It was while in jail that he wrote the first volume of *Mein Kampf*.

Within two months of his release, just before Christmas 1924, Hitler had persuaded the authorities to lift the ban on the NSDAP. He jettisoned their paramilitary tactics, setting the party on a programme of legitimate politicking. They contested elections to both the Reichstag, the national parliament, and to the state legislature. Despite electoral disappointment (the NSDAP only received 2.6 per cent of the vote in the 1928 ▶

"HITLER AND MUSSOLINI WERE CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH... HITLER EVEN ADOPTED MUSSOLINI'S STRAIGHT-ARM SALUTE"

undisguised attempt to woo left-wing workers, but Hitler disagreed with its inclusion. His star was ascending quickly, though, with a reputation such that people would flock to hear him berate the Treaty of Versailles and blame Jews for the ills of the world.

LARGE AND IN CHARGE

An example of just how quickly Hitler's influence within the party had grown, and how broad it had become, came in 1921 when calls were voiced for the DAP to merge with the German Socialist Party. A potential merger with a rival party was too much for Hitler to bear, and he tendered his resignation in anything but a tender fashion. The party was a blunt instrument without the increasingly ruthless Hitler as their chief orator and he was persuaded to rescind his resignation; in return, he would replace Drexler as party chairman. Once installed, Hitler dissolved the party committee and became sole leader.

That same year, he established the *Sturmabteilung* (more commonly known as the SA, or Brownshirts), a party militia designed to violently attack other political parties and their supporters. The SA generally recruited out-of-work young men who were angry and disaffected. Rallies became recruitment drives, often held in

Members of the *Sturmabteilung* (SA) pictured on a training march outside Munich in 1923

ABOVE & LEFT: **Hitler's rhetoric appealed to the angry, disaffected and those left hungry by the Great Depression**

Hitler in 1933, the same year the Enabling Act gave him the ability to pass laws without parliament

Reichstag elections), its seven figure membership continued to grow, thanks to strong recruitment structures and clear, effective propaganda.

The party certainly benefited significantly from the effects of the Great Depression, the blame for which they placed firmly on the shoulders of Jewish businessmen. In 1930, the NSDAP share of the vote in the Reichstag elections had risen to 18 per cent, making it the second largest party in parliament. Following the second round of the 1932 presidential election, Hitler polled 36.8 per cent against the 54 per cent of the incumbent Paul von Hindenburg.

Four months later, the Nazis became the largest party in the Reichstag, but still without a majority. Another election was called in November. The result was similar; the political stalemate remained unbroken. In this second election, the NSDAP vote actually dropped by four per cent. Facing the possibility that his appeal was in decline, in January 1933 Hitler persuaded Hindenburg that he was a sufficiently safe pair of hands to establish some kind of national stability. He was appointed Reich chancellor, the brake on his power being that he would be overseeing a cabinet where his own party was in a minority.

Two months later, the next parliamentary election again failed to yield an outright majority, but the Nazi vote had increased to 44 per cent. With German politics in more turmoil than ever after the Reichstag fire the previous month, the Enabling Act of 1933 gave Hitler the power to enact laws without parliamentary approval. The Nazis had totalitarian control and swiftly abolished opposition parties, imprisoning their officials and supporters.

Hitler then made sure his grip on his party was watertight. After violently suppressing any intraparty opposition during the Night of the Long Knives in the summer of 1934 (*see box, right*), and following Hindenburg's death a month later, Hitler merged the roles of party leader, government leader and head of state.

The beer hall preacher was now the all powerful Führer.

WORDS: NIGE TASSELL

THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

After gaining power, Hitler consolidated his position with a bloody purge

Having successfully created a one-party state during the first half of 1933, Adolf Hitler then embarked on a short – and very violent – programme of instilling loyalty within the Nazi Party. The main targets were the most prominent members of the *Sturmabteilung* (or SA), the party's paramilitary wing, whose influence and power had grown so great that an attempted coup by its leader Ernst Röhm was allegedly planned.

Or at least that's what was used as justification for the events of 30 June – 2 July 1934, known officially as Operation Hummingbird or, more commonly, the Night of the Long Knives. At least 85 people were murdered during the operation, although the body count is believed to be much higher. The killings were carried out by the SS (originally Hitler's bodyguards) and the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police. Röhm, an ally of Hitler's for many years, was among the SA victims.

Operation Hummingbird also represented an opportunity for Hitler – spurred on by loyalists like Heinrich Himmler and Hermann Göring – to root out people he simply held grudges against, including the former Reich organisational leader Gregor Strasser, or anti-Nazi establishment figures that had crossed Hitler in the past, such as the former chancellor Kurt von Schleicher.

The purge reassured the German military of Hitler's strength and thus the stability of the nation. Of seemingly little concern was the way in which the Führer ignored centuries of legal precedent to order these extrajudicial killings. In this show of strength over the judiciary, Hitler really had become untouchable.

Daily Express

CAPTAIN ROEHM EXECUTED

Arrested Storm Troop Commander Given Ten Minutes To Kill Himself—Shot When He Refuses

HITLER CRUSHES BROWN SHIRT REVOLT

MORE THAN THIRTY LEADERS DEAD

PAPEN AND CROWN PRINCE UNDER ARREST

Among Those Dead ---

A PREMIER TO PAY A GIRL £2,000?

LATE NEWS

ABOVE: **One of the headline killings was that of Hitler's one-time ally Ernst Röhm**

RIGHT: **Crowds wait for a glimpse of Hitler the morning after the purge**

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X4

INDOCTRINATION AT EVERY LEVEL

Nazi social and economic policies covered all aspects of German life – from leisure time to education

REARMAMENT

The terms of the Treaty of Versailles of 1919 had significantly shorn postwar Germany of its military might. During the war, it had boasted an army numbering nearly 2 million, but the treaty stripped this back to just 100,000 soldiers, whose core duties were limited to the maintenance of civil order and the control of borders. Hitler's ambitious plans for territorial expansion (the policy of *Lebensraum*, or 'living room') couldn't be achieved without a renewed and strong military. Indeed, creating such was his priority: "All other tasks must cede precedence to the task of rearmament," he declared.

Accordingly, military spending increased from a single per cent of national income when the Nazis came to power, to 10 per cent within two years. The Treaty of Versailles had largely disarmed the German army, which had been forced to surrender military hardware and vehicles, and didn't permit such large-scale rearmament. To sidestep international criticism, Germany withdrew from the League of Nations in October 1933. The German navy, similarly stripped to the bone by the Allies after the war, embarked on a major programme of expansion, too, commissioning the construction of dozens of new vessels.

Hitler and top military brass attend the launch of a new ship for the *Kriegsmarine*, the Nazi navy

Hitler, though, continued to deflect opposition to this mass rearmament, insisting that the expenditure covered "essential maintenance and renewal". Of course, such a claim didn't explain the introduction of conscription in 1935, whereby every man had to undertake two years of national service. The result was a military force some 1.4 million-strong: the *Wehrmacht*.

With rearmament came huge expenditure, the belief within the German government being that the mounting national debt would be cleared by the collection of taxes from the new territories it planned to conquer and colonise. ▶

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2

Rallies showed off German rearmament, in violation of Versailles

Conscription, introduced in 1935, led to more than a million men being drafted by the start of the war

PUBLIC WORKS

Once in power, the Nazis embarked on a sizeable programme of public works, improving the infrastructure of a country still damaged and in decline because of the effects of World War I. The building of new schools and hospitals was commissioned, along with iconic structures, such as the Olympic Stadium in Berlin that would house the 1936 Games. Indeed, there were grand plans for the entire centre of the German capital to be radically renewed, a vision set out by Albert Speer, the man commonly known as the architect of the Third Reich.

Arguably the most notable element of the Nazi's infrastructure programme was the construction of a comprehensive *autobahn* network. Under the stewardship of the chief engineer Fritz Todt, three north–south and east–west super-fast highways were built. By 1941, when the project was suspended due to the demands of the war, nearly 2,500 miles of autobahn had been laid. The network's importance to civilians at the time is questionable, with few Germans able to afford their own cars. However, the autobahn would prove advantageous when the military needed to move vehicles and personnel swiftly in wartime.

L–R: **Nazi Germany had a great need for architects for the infrastructure works; a new stretch of autobahn, seen c1935; a poster for the 1936 Olympics**

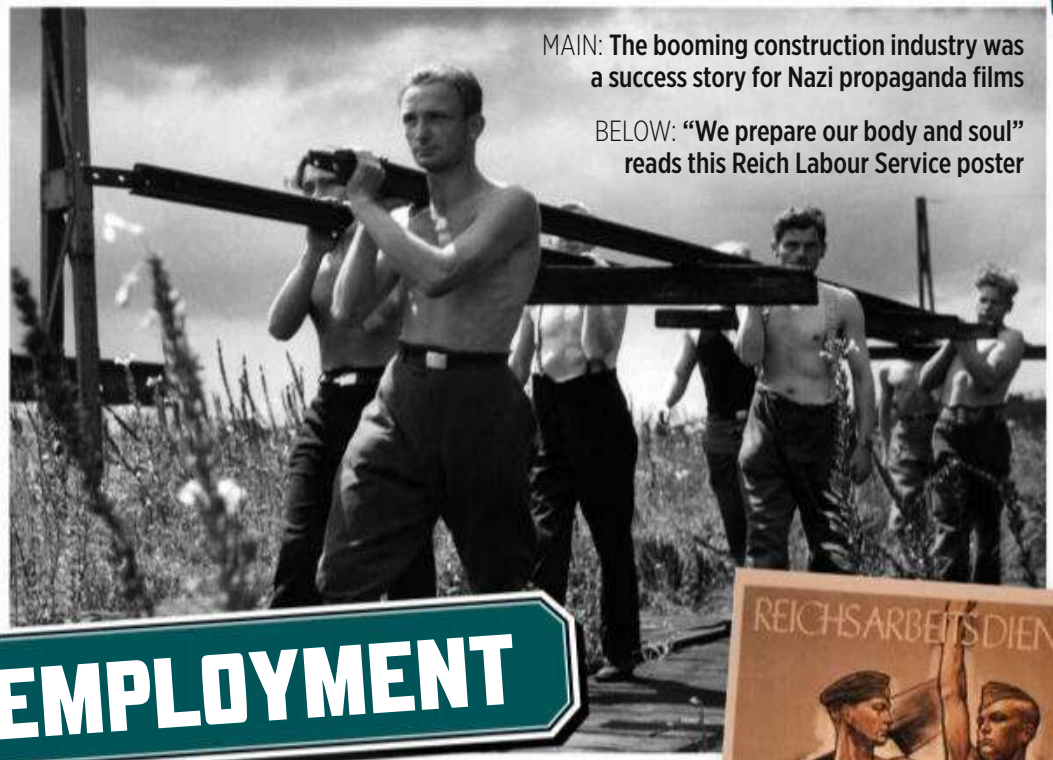
Hitler and chief architect Albert Speer (*standing to Hitler's right, next to Rudolf Hess*) study plans for a complex in Nuremberg

AUTARKY

Having risen to power partly fuelled by their opposition to international capitalism – an outlook seemingly vindicated by the 1929 Wall Street Crash and the subsequent Great Depression – the Nazis sought to establish an economic system whereby the country would be entirely self-sufficient: autarky. The reasoning behind this was that, in readying for territorial expansion, Germany would remain strong when the inevitable war broke out. Eliminating international trade remained an idealistic pipe dream, though. While farmers received subsidies to produce more food, and controls were placed on imported goods, Germany still relied on foreign imports when war was declared in 1939. For instance, 20 per cent of its food was still coming from other countries. And restrictions on trade produced shortages for certain raw materials, such as rubber for car tyres, and fuel.

ABOVE: **Hermann Göring inspects a textile workshop in his role of making Germany self-sufficient** INSET: **A poster from 1933 promotes autarky**

EMPLOYMENT



MAIN: **The booming construction industry was a success story for Nazi propaganda films**

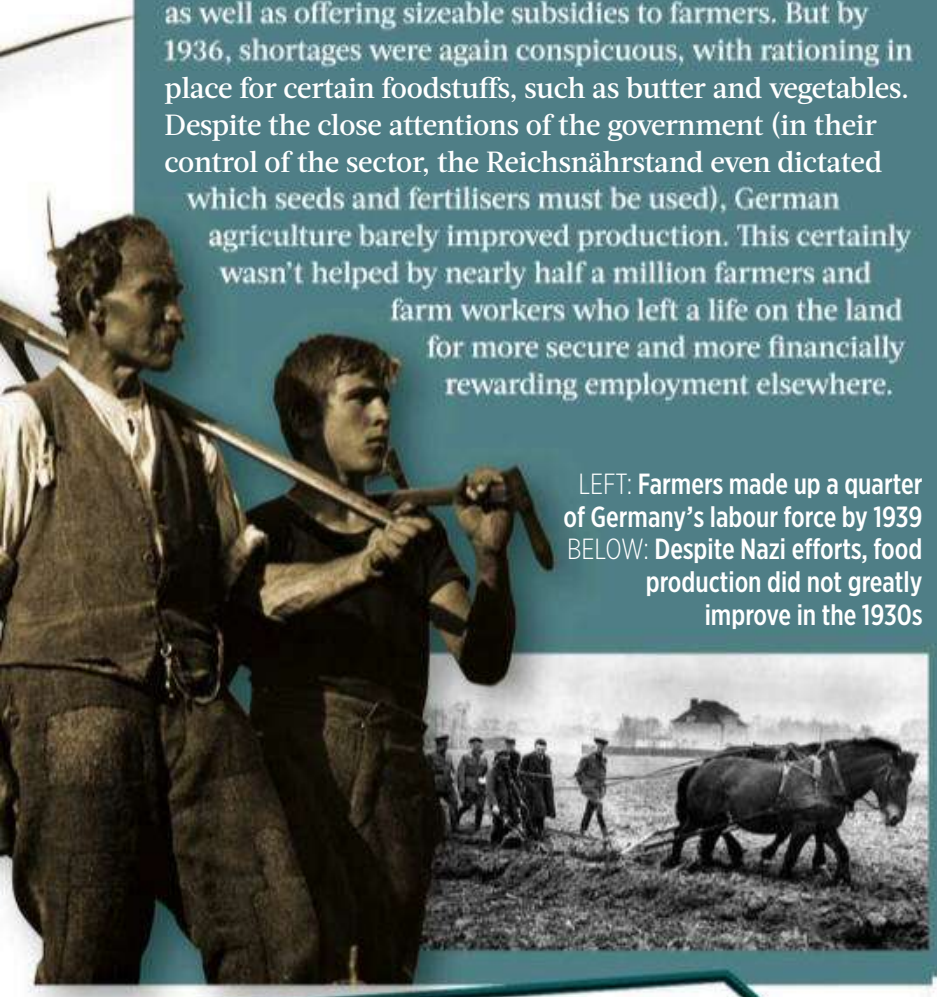
BELOW: **"We prepare our body and soul" reads this Reich Labour Service poster**

Due to the effects of the Great Depression, unemployment in Germany was at 30 per cent when Hitler became Chancellor. But through the demands of the rearmament and public works programmes, this figure dramatically reduced. The construction industry boomed, as did industries involved in manufacturing for the military, including steel, aviation and shipbuilding. Job creation within Nazi Germany was higher than in any other western country; by 1938, unemployment had been practically eradicated, albeit through compulsion. In 1935, the Reich Labour Service was established, which made it mandatory for unemployed men aged 18–25 to work for six months on a public works scheme before undertaking their similarly compulsory two-year spell in the military.

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X9

AGRICULTURE

In 1933, the *Reichsnährstand* was established, a government organisation devoted to the control and promotion of agriculture. Food shortages had weakened Germany during World War I and, in the quest for self-sufficiency, improved production was seen as paramount. The Reichsnährstand did its utmost to protect home-grown and home-reared food by applying price controls and prohibitions to the market, as well as offering sizeable subsidies to farmers. But by 1936, shortages were again conspicuous, with rationing in place for certain foodstuffs, such as butter and vegetables. Despite the close attentions of the government (in their control of the sector, the Reichsnährstand even dictated which seeds and fertilisers must be used), German agriculture barely improved production. This certainly wasn't helped by nearly half a million farmers and farm workers who left a life on the land for more secure and more financially rewarding employment elsewhere.



LEFT: **Farmers made up a quarter of Germany's labour force by 1939**
BELOW: **Despite Nazi efforts, food production did not greatly improve in the 1930s**

DID YOU KNOW?

CORRUPTING YOUTH

The biology curriculum was changed to teach Nazi beliefs on race, including eugenics. In his 1925 book *Mein Kampf*, Hitler had written: "No boy or girl must leave school without having attained a clear insight into the meaning of racial purity."

Schoolgirls in Berlin perform the Nazi salute as part of Physical Exercise Day

EDUCATION

A teacher goes through facial features that fit the Nazi ideal

The Nazis used the education system as a way of blinkering young minds and enforcing Nazi ideals upon them. The school curriculum became decidedly narrower as subjects were slanted towards right wing beliefs and ideology. Science lessons taught the misguided notion that 'pure' Germans were racially superior, while history classes amplified German achievements and disregarded uncomfortable truths about actual events. Teachers were expected to unquestioningly teach this skewed syllabus; any dissenters were sacked, along with all Jewish teachers when the Nazis came to power.

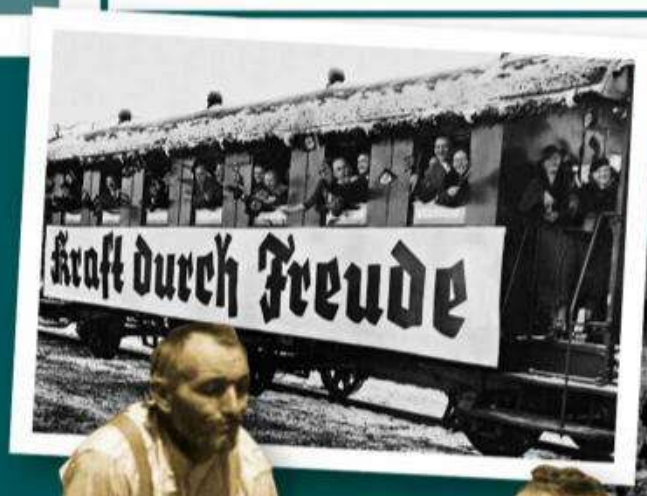
In 1933, public schools were forced to cap the number of "non Aryan" students at five per cent; by 1938, they were outlawed altogether. "It is unacceptable to expect that any German teacher provide instruction to Jewish schoolchildren," declared a Ministry for Science and Education order. "It should also be self evident that it is intolerable for German schoolchildren to sit in a classroom shared with Jews."

LEISURE TIME

The Nazis weren't only concerned with military expansion and full employment. They also played a significant part in their citizens' leisure time, mostly through the establishment of the Strength through Joy organisation – *Kraft durch Freude*, or KdF. Under the auspices of enriching the lives of the masses, the KdF organised a vast programme of concerts, day trips, hikes and holidays, the latter even including cruises, and skiing trips in the Alps. Indeed, the KdF rose to become the world's leading travel agent, with 43 million Germans taking part in KdF holidays between 1934 and 1938.

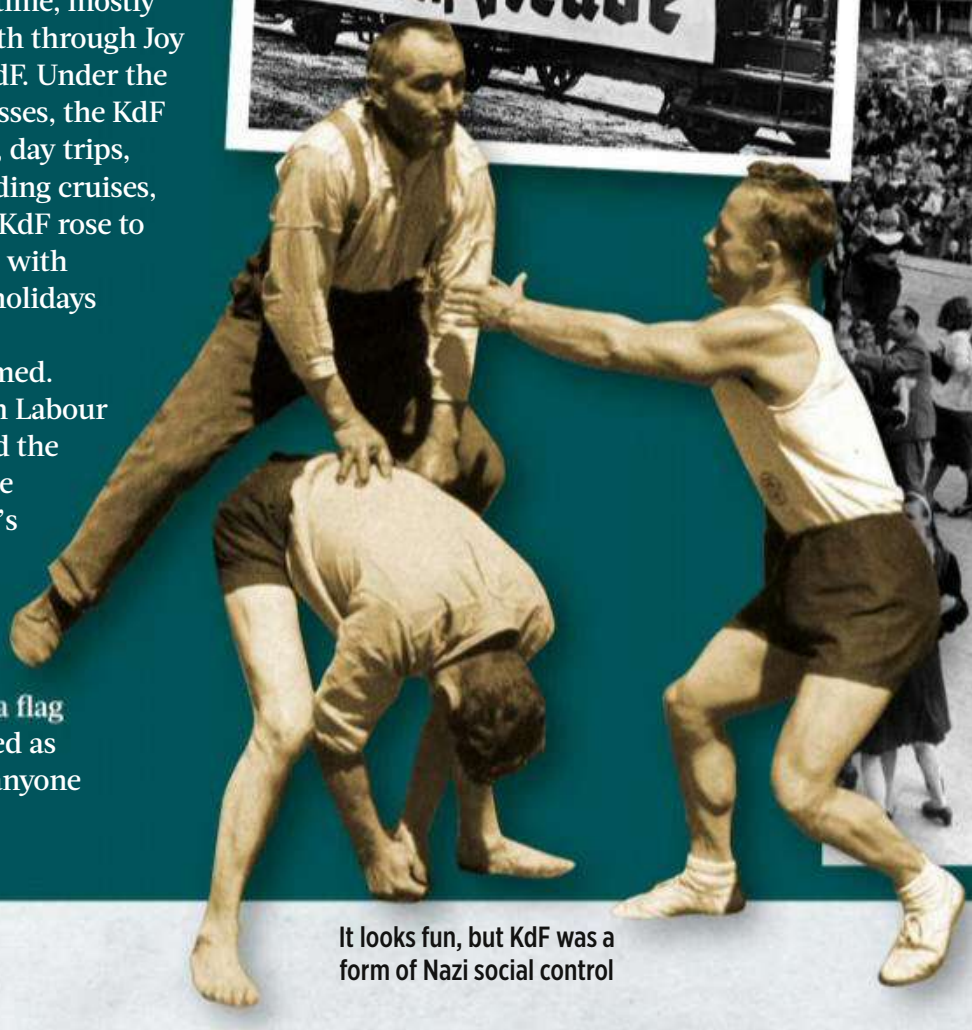
However, not all was quite how it seemed. The KdF was actually part of the German Labour Front, the organisation that had replaced the trade unions that were banned under the Nazis. The thinking: the busier a worker's leisure time, the less likely they were to cultivate negative, anti-Nazi thoughts. KdF holidays weren't quite the affairs they might have appeared, either. Allegiance had to be paid to the Swastika flag twice a day, and government agents posed as holiday-makers to keep a beady eye on anyone not toeing the party line. ⊙

WORDS: NIGE TASSELL



LEFT: **A KdF train takes German men and women on their latest state-approved trip**

BELOW: **Strength through Joy was, for a time, the world's largest tourism operator**



It looks fun, but KdF was a form of Nazi social control

DID YOU KNOW?

UNEXPECTED LINEAGE

Baldur von Schirach, in charge of the Hitler Youth from 1931, was three-quarters American, and spoke English as his first language. He was a direct descendant of Thomas Heyward Jr – a signatory of the US Declaration of Independence.

Adolf Hitler arrives at the infamous 1934 Nuremberg Rally, watched by members of the Hitler Youth

"THE YOUTH WERE THE FUTURE OF THE NAZI REGIME'S SURVIVAL, AND THEIR UNIFIED MILITANCY WAS VITAL TO HITLER'S VISION OF A THRIVING FATHERLAND"

HITLER'S CHILDREN

Groups such as the Hitler Youth were originally founded to teach Nazi principles and help secure the future of the Reich. But, as **Dr Emma Butcher** explains, their members would eventually find themselves fighting on the frontline

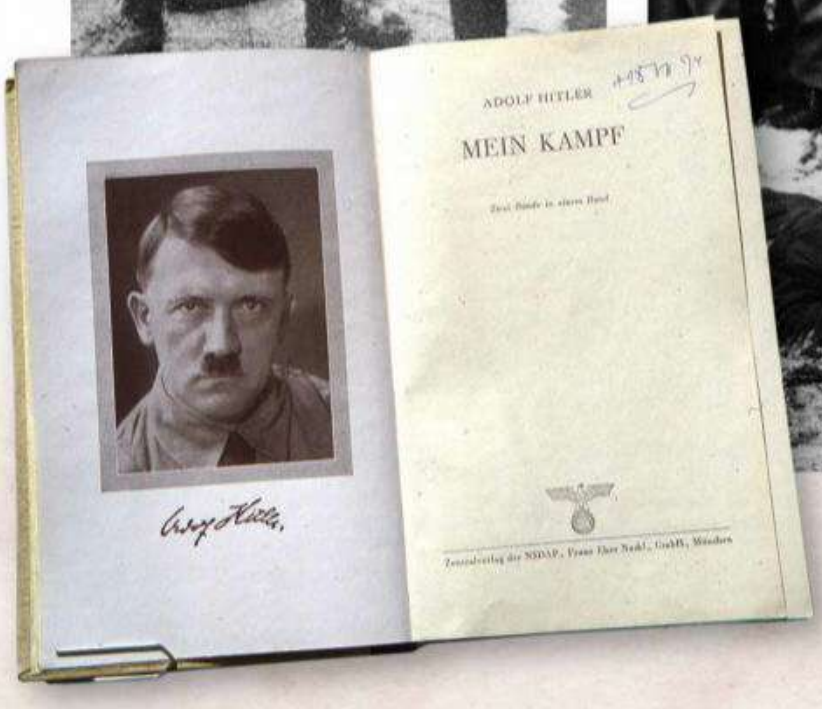
On 14 September 1935, Adolf Hitler stepped up to a podium facing a 50,000-strong crowd in the rally grounds of Nuremberg. With his fists clenched, he spoke in a tone that captivated his audience. This time, the entire crowd was made up of Hitler Youth members, an organisation that was used to educate and train boys aged 10 to 18 in Nazi principles. In his speech Hitler cited a passage from his two-volume political tract, *Mein Kampf*, describing his ideal Hitler Youth subject: "Swift as a greyhound, as tough as leather, and as hard as Krupp steel."

TOMORROW'S NAZIS

Young people were the future of the Nazi regime's survival, and their unified militancy was vital to Hitler's utopian vision of a thriving fatherland. At the time of his 1935 address, almost 60 per cent of German boys had joined the Hitler Youth, and in 1936 it became a state agency that all young Aryans were expected to join in order to be educated physically, intellectually and morally. In fact, the movement became inescapable – all other youth groups either disbanded or were absorbed into the Hitler Youth, and opportunities such as summer camps and sports facilities were now only open to members.

By early 1939, around 82 per cent of eligible boys in the Greater Reich belonged to the Hitler Youth, making it the largest youth organisation in the world. On 25 March 1939, the law on membership tightened, and it became mandatory for all German males aged 10 to 18 to join the organisation; those who failed to comply with the law were threatened with criminal prosecution, including parents who refused to relinquish control of their youngsters.

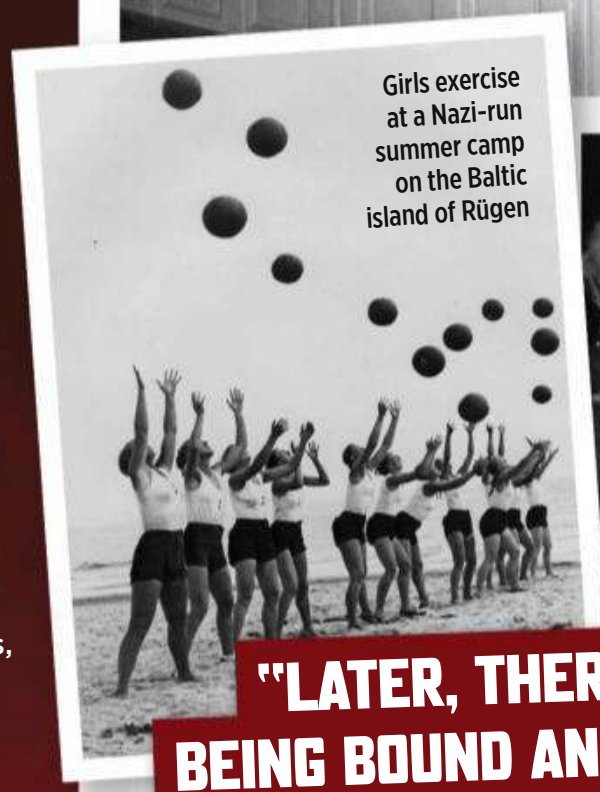
Gender division was paramount to Nazi strategy. Boys were considered future soldiers for the Nazi cause; as such, every activity from local to national level was designed around physical ▶



ABOVE: **Colonel Horst Niemack (*centre*) speaks to members of the Berlin Hitler Youth at a training camp. Boys were considered future soldiers for the Nazi cause** ABOVE LEFT: **A pair of very young children dressed in the distinctive attire of the Hitler Youth, c1935** LEFT: **The first volume of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* was published in 1925**

GETTY IMAGES X5

Members of the League of German Girls perform a song for Nazi official Alfred Rosenberg



Girls exercise at a Nazi-run summer camp on the Baltic island of Rügen

A 15-year-old member of the *Volkssturm* (*left*) attends a Nazi event alongside his father

"LATER, THERESA REMEMBERS BEING BOUND AND GAGGED BY SOVIET SOLDIERS, SURROUNDED BY A SEA OF SEVERED GERMAN HEADS"

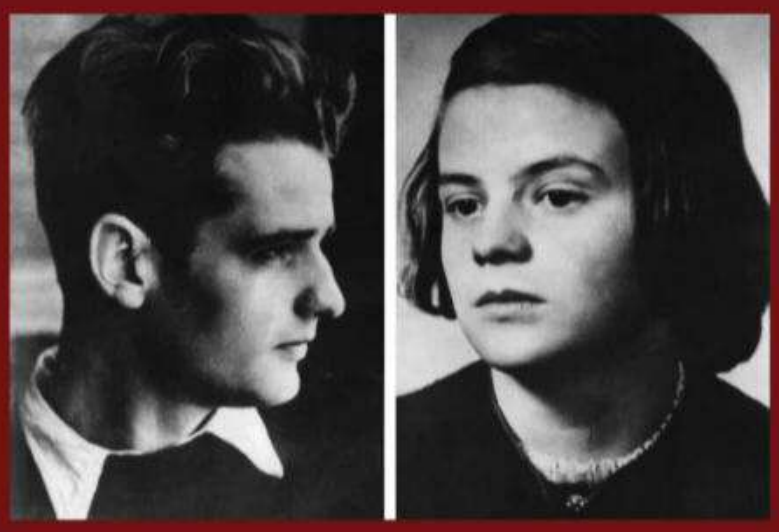
YOUTH GROUPS AGAINST HITLER

Defying the Führer could mean a death sentence – whatever your age

Despite it being mandatory – from 25 March 1939 – for all males aged 10 to 18 to commit to the Hitler Youth, many young people avoided joining, and some even went so far as to form their own rival, anti-Nazi youth groups. The largest of these were the Edelweiss Pirates – a loose collection of individual groups, some with names of their own, who rejected the strict discipline and military structure of the Hitler Youth. Instead, they favoured freedom of expression and hiking and camping trips to the countryside, where they sang banned songs and spoke openly against the Nazis. After war broke out, Pirate activities became more serious – from distributing propaganda leaflets dropped by Allied aircraft and attacking Hitler Youth members, to stealing from Nazi supply lines or assisting deserters from the German army.

Prior to 1939, the Pirates were seen as little more than troublesome youths by the authorities, but as the conflict progressed, the presence of disaffected youth groups began to be seen as more of a threat and a crackdown ensued. Those identified as belonging to the Pirates could have their heads shaved or be sent to concentration camps. In 1944, 13 young boys and men were publicly hanged in Cologne – six of whom were members of the Edelweiss Pirates.

Another anti-Nazi youth organisation – in addition to the Swing Youth group, which rebelled against Nazi values by frequenting illegal jazz clubs – was the White Rose group. Formed by students at the University of Munich, members of the White Rose launched an anti-Nazi graffiti campaign and published a series of leaflets advocating passive resistance to the Nazi regime, which were mailed to individuals across Munich. In February 1943, siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl were caught handing out leaflets at the university and were convicted of high treason. The pair, aged 24 and 21 respectively, were sentenced to death and executed by guillotine. Hans's last words were: "*Es lebe die Freiheit*!" ("Long live freedom!")



Siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl, members of the White Rose youth group, were executed for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X3

strength and experience of military drills and weaponry.

Girls, meanwhile, were part of a different organisation, branded the *Bund Deutscher Mädel* (League of German Girls). Although physical fitness was valued, sports tended to be more focused on unity and working together, such as synchronised gymnastics. The League was primarily concerned with teaching girls aged 10 to 18 domestic skills such as cooking, sewing and first aid; essentially the normative gender roles that ensured good matrimony and motherhood.

As Ilse McKee wrote in her 1960 autobiography, *Tomorrow the World*: "We were Germany's hope in the future, and it was our duty to breed and rear the new generation of sons and daughters who would carry on the tradition of the thousand-year-old Reich." The youth were preparing for the next generation; the Nazi regime was to dominate the world, and sustain it.

SERVING THE FATHERLAND

The rhetoric of war became an important part of German children's identities: by 1943 militant oaths were no longer the chant of campfires but real-life pledges, while the Hitler Youth and League of German Girls were used as reserve units due to depleted German manpower. By 1945, sectors of the German army, such as the *Volkssturm* (People's Storm), were using children as young as 12; there were even all-female *Werwolf* (Werewolf) guerrilla units. These young recruits became the final frontline for Germany and were brandished at the forefront of its propaganda machine.

On 20 April 1945, as the war was drawing to a close, 19 boys aged between 10 and 14 were paraded in front of Hitler's bunker, where he would later take his own life. The footage was broadcast as a newsreel in the few cinemas left standing in Berlin – the boys have their Iron Crosses pinned to their chest and Hitler's jarring words remain hopeful, almost paternal: "Despite the gravity of these times, I remain firmly convinced that we will achieve victory in this battle, and above all for Germany's youth and you, my boys."

One of these boys was Alfred Czech, known as Hitler's youngest hero, who earned his medal saving German soldiers as his home village was attacked. In 2005 he was interviewed about his encounter and quick transition into soldierhood in the *Volkssturm*: "As a small boy, I didn't reflect much, I just wanted to

Adolf Hitler greets 16-year-old Iron Cross recipient Wilhelm 'Willi' Hübner. Alfred Czech, who was even younger, is immediately to Hübner's left

do something for my people," he said. "I didn't think it was insane to send children into battle. It was war." The interviewer, Tony Paterson, noted that Czech still had a picture of the encounter framed on the wall, hanging above a budgerigar cage. For many of Germany's youth, the idea of the 'Fatherland' continued to resonate, with Hitler's words still trusted by his 'children'.

"BETTER DEAD THAN RED"

The blind determination of a desperate Germany saw the regime push children to participate in dangerous situations and risk almost certain death. One of the most shocking situations children found themselves in was being armed with anti tank *Panzerfausts* (a type of grenade launcher) and anti aircraft guns. At the battle of Berlin in 1945, boys and girls were on the frontline using their quasi military training in a last effort to stop the Soviets invading the city. There was even a radio station, Radio Werewolf, that rallied children with the cry of "*Besser tot als rot*" better dead than red.

During the battle a young girl named Theresa Moelle spotted, along with her friend Anneliese, a Soviet tank coming towards them. Anneliese gave Theresa her *Panzerfaust* and she fired: "There was a flash, followed by a puff of smoke. Suddenly, the lid of the tank blew off, followed by a rush of bright red and yellow flame and sparks." Later, Theresa remembers being bound and gagged by Soviet soldiers, surrounded by a sea of severed German heads while their captors urinated on a poster of Hitler.

This was not an exceptional encounter. During Germany's final frantic weeks, more children were rounded up, taken out of school and sent out to the frontlines against the Soviets. Heinz Shuetze later recalled that at just 15 years old he was put in an SS uniform and sent to fight Soviet forces on the front line after being given half a day's training with a *Panzerfaust*.

A survivor from Soviet confrontations, Guenter Dullni, remembered how "[the Soviets] had no mercy for child soldiers, particularly when you were slapped into an SS uniform". Against all the laws and principles of war, the brutality exhibited in these final battles demonstrated that children were not eligible for protection, but were merely an easy target.

Throughout the war, Germany's youth groups transitioned from gender divided clubs that secured Germany's future strength, to back-up armies composed of miniature recruits and, ultimately, gun fodder.

Hitler Youth members gather inside a radio studio to take part in a propaganda broadcast

ABOVE: **Young Alfred Czech proudly wears the Iron Cross (2nd Class) he was awarded in March 1945**

ABOVE RIGHT: **German boys crawl through a field during a military training exercise in the late 1930s**

Whereas once German youth represented the longevity and strength of the Reich, each child quickly became disposable when all future hopes were dashed by impending defeat. Through personal testimony, and films like Taika Waititi's *Jojo Rabbit* (2019), these children's experiences are being highlighted, showing how dependant ideologies are on mobilised youth, and how entire generations can be manipulated and mutated into weapons and soldiers.

DR EMMA BUTCHER is an academic, writer and broadcaster who is an expert in the history of children and war. She is author of *The Brontës and War* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) and the upcoming *Children in the Age of Modern War* (Oxford University Press, 2022)

THE NAZI TOP BRASS

The Nazi regime was dominated by a handful of individuals, led by their Führer, Adolf Hitler

ADOLF HITLER

Born in 1889 in Braunau am Inn, on the Austro-German border, Hitler left school with no qualifications and twice applied – unsuccessfully – to the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts.

After the death of his mother in 1907, he spent a few years moving around Vienna's hostels, painting postcards to make a living. At this time, Vienna was a hotbed of racial rhetoric, and the city's mayor Karl Lueger was a well-known anti-Semite – a man Hitler admired.

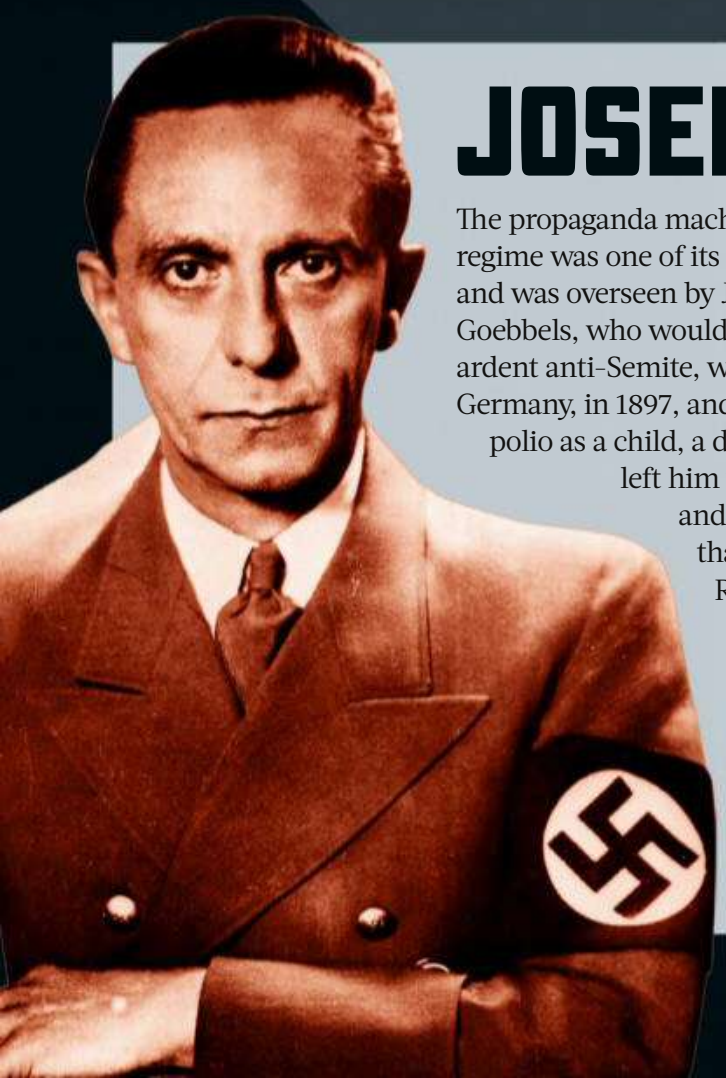
Hitler moved to Munich in 1913 and enlisted to fight in a Bavarian regiment almost as soon as World War I was declared in 1914. Decorated twice for bravery, he was wounded at the Somme and suffered temporary blindness from a gas attack. Once the war had ended, he was employed by the army to monitor extreme nationalist movements.

In 1919, Hitler joined the anti-Semitic German Workers' Party. His gifts for public speaking and enthralling crowds saw him climb the party ladder, and he was soon its most valuable member. In 1921, it was suggested that the group, now known as the National Socialist German Workers' Party, should merge with the German Socialist Party – a rival group on the far right. Hitler was so appalled that he resigned his membership. Realising what a threat losing him would be to the party's support, Hitler was lured back by granting his request that he be made chairman.

Hitler was sentenced to five years in prison in 1924 following an attempt the previous year to overthrow the Bavarian government in a coup known as the Beer Hall Putsch. It was while incarcerated – he only served nine months – that Hitler wrote the first volume of *Mein Kampf* – an autobiographical manifesto in which, among other things, he outlined his support of dictatorial government and belief in the superiority of the Aryan race – a mythical 'master race', superior to others, that Hitler and others believed Germans belonged to.

By 1932, with Hitler at its helm, the Nazi Party was Germany's largest political party, and the following year, German President von Hindenburg made Hitler chancellor. When the president died in 1934, Hitler, with the support of the German army, became absolute dictator, embarking on a disturbing mission to rid the country of those he considered 'impure' and non-Aryan, particularly Jews. Austria and part of Czechoslovakia came under Nazi control, but it was Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 that launched World War II.

On 30 April 1945, as Soviet troops made their way towards his hideout, Hitler and his partner of at least 13 years, Eva Braun (whom he had married the previous day), took their own lives.



JOSEPH GOEBBELS

The propaganda machine of the Nazi regime was one of its strongest assets, and was overseen by Joseph Goebbels. Goebbels, who would become an ardent anti-Semite, was born in Rheydt, Germany, in 1897, and had contracted polio as a child, a disease that had left him with a clubfoot and one leg shorter than the other.

Ridiculed at school for his disability, Goebbels gained a desperate need to prove himself. Exempted from military service during World War I, he embarked on a career in journalism.

Having joined the Nazi Party in 1924, Goebbels was soon tasked with increasing the party's support in Berlin and here his talents flourished. Through rallies, posters and later newspapers, he tapped into the fears of the German people, pushing them towards the Nazi Party as the solution. His hard work paid off – once Hitler gained power in 1933, the Führer made Goebbels Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda.

His new position gave Goebbels control over the radio, cinema and press, which were all censored by the state. In a crackdown on dissention and opposition, Goebbels oversaw the banning of books by 'unsuitable' authors and created films that spread the Nazi messages of supremacy and anti-Semitism.

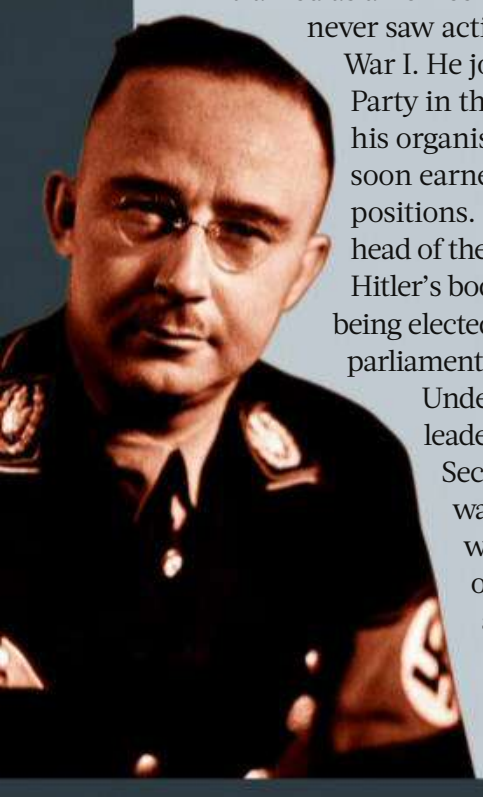
On 9 November 1938, Goebbels delivered a speech that encouraged anti-Semitic demonstrations. Over the following days across Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland, synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses were attacked, Jews murdered, and 30,000 Jewish men taken to concentration camps in what would be known as *Kristallnacht*, or the Night of Broken Glass.

Goebbels had complete faith in the messages he was curating and spreading, even when it was clear that Germany was losing the war. Loyal to Hitler until the end, the day after his death, Goebbels and his wife Magda poisoned their six children before killing themselves.

HEINRICH HIMMLER

The security forces of the Third Reich were all under the control of one man: Heinrich Himmler. As well as leader of the SS the Nazi Party's elite paramilitary unit Himmler was chief of police, minister of the interior (from 1943), and the main architect of the Holocaust.

Born in Munich in 1900, Himmler trained as an officer candidate but never saw action during World War I. He joined the Nazi Party in the early 1920s and his organisational skills soon earned him prestigious positions. He was made a head of the SS in 1929 then Hitler's bodyguards before being elected to Germany's parliament, the Reichstag.



Under Himmler's leadership, the Nazi Security Service (SD) was established, which monitored opponents and gathered intelligence. Once the Nazis were in power, Himmler expanded the power of the SS and began the Nazi mission of obliterating Jews from Germany. He opened the first concentration camp, Dachau, in 1933. Originally intended for political prisoners, it soon expanded to hold others, including Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, Roma, homosexuals, vagrants, 'asocials', 'incorrigible' petty criminals and the 'work shy'.

A firm believer in the idea of racial purity, Himmler encouraged Aryan 'breeding programmes' and set in motion the elimination of Jews and other so called 'undesirables' he oversaw the 'Final Solution', sending millions of Jews to their deaths in extermination and labour camps. Shaken by a mass shooting of Jews he witnessed in 1941, Himmler sought alternative means of mass murder, leading to the implementation of gas chambers across death camps.

Unlike other commanders, Himmler tried to negotiate with the Allies. He was stripped of his offices and attempted to evade capture once Germany surrendered. He was eventually caught at a checkpoint manned by former Soviet prisoners of war and brought to British troops on 23 May. It was that day, in custody, that he took his own life.

HERMANN GÖRING

Hermann Göring was Hitler's right hand man and earmarked to be his successor. Born in 1893, he served as a pilot during World War I, becoming a commercial pilot after the war ended. An impassioned speech by Hitler persuaded him to join the Nazi Party in 1922. He would be made the leader of the SA the party's militia, which intimidated opponents to the party the following year.

During the failed Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, Göring was shot and subsequently became addicted to morphine an addiction that would plague him all his life. After spending some time in an asylum, he lived as an exile in Europe, returning to Germany in 1927. In 1933, after becoming Minister of the Interior for Prussia, he created the oppressive secret police known as the Gestapo to eradicate opponents and dissention. His aptitude continued to see Göring given ever more responsibility, including control of Germany's police forces, before handing this over to Himmler.

Göring's assistance during the purge of political opponents known as the Night of the Long Knives enabled him to rise higher within the party and, in 1935, he took command of the Luftwaffe.

Compared to Hitler, Göring was seen as a more sociable and accessible character. He was a popular public figure, a perception that only intensified after the launch of the Hermann Göring Works in 1937, and the hundreds of jobs it created.

After the invasion of Poland in 1939, Göring was named as Hitler's successor. In April 1945, as the Allies closed in on Hitler and Berlin, Göring, believing the Führer to be trapped, telegrammed him requesting permission to assume power. A furious Hitler interpreted this as an act of treason and called for Göring's resignation, expelling him from the party. Once Hitler was dead, Göring surrendered to the Allies.

During the military tribunals that followed WWII (known as the Nuremberg Trials), Göring was condemned as a war criminal but killed himself on 15 October 1946, the day before his intended execution.

OTHER KEY FIGURES

MARTIN BORMANN

◀ Private secretary for Hitler and head of the Nazi Party's Chancellery, Martin Bormann's power was in truth second only to Hitler himself. Attaining much of his influence from 1941 onwards, he was instrumental in the struggles and persecutions between the Nazi Party and Germany's Christian churches, and advocated the extermination of Jewish and Slavic people. He died by suicide shortly after Hitler's death, but was tried at Nuremberg in absentia as his fate was unknown at the time.

JOACHIM VON RIBBENTROP

◀ Joachim von Ribbentrop was Hitler's foreign minister between 1936 and 1945. Before the outbreak of war, von Ribbentrop had successfully brokered treaties with Italy and Japan as well as a pact of non-aggression with the Soviet Union. His influence declined from 1941 onwards and, following his arrest in 1945, he was sentenced to death at the Nuremberg Trials.

ADOLF EICHMANN

◀ Adolf Eichmann was one of the main perpetrators of the Holocaust. He had participated in the removal of Jews from Vienna and Prague and then became vital to implementing the 'Final Solution'. Eichmann oversaw the identification and transportation of Jews from across occupied Europe to their final destinations in concentration camps. After escaping US custody after the war, he went on the run but was captured in Argentina by the Mossad (Israel's intelligence service) in 1960. He was hanged in 1962.

ERNST RÖHM

◀ A leading figure in the Nazi Party's early rise to power, Ernst Röhm led the party's militia – the SA. Afraid of his potential as a rival, Hitler ordered Röhm's execution in 1934 as part of the political purge known as Night of the Long Knives.

GERTRUD SCHOLTZ-KLINK

◀ The ideal Nazi woman was a mother and homemaker, so there were few who made it into the highest levels of the party. Gertrud Scholtz-Link, however, was something of an exception – she was the leader of Germany's National Socialist Women's League. Mainly seen as figurehead, she promoted the roles of women as child-bearers and the superiority of men, as well as condemning women who entered politics. ⊙

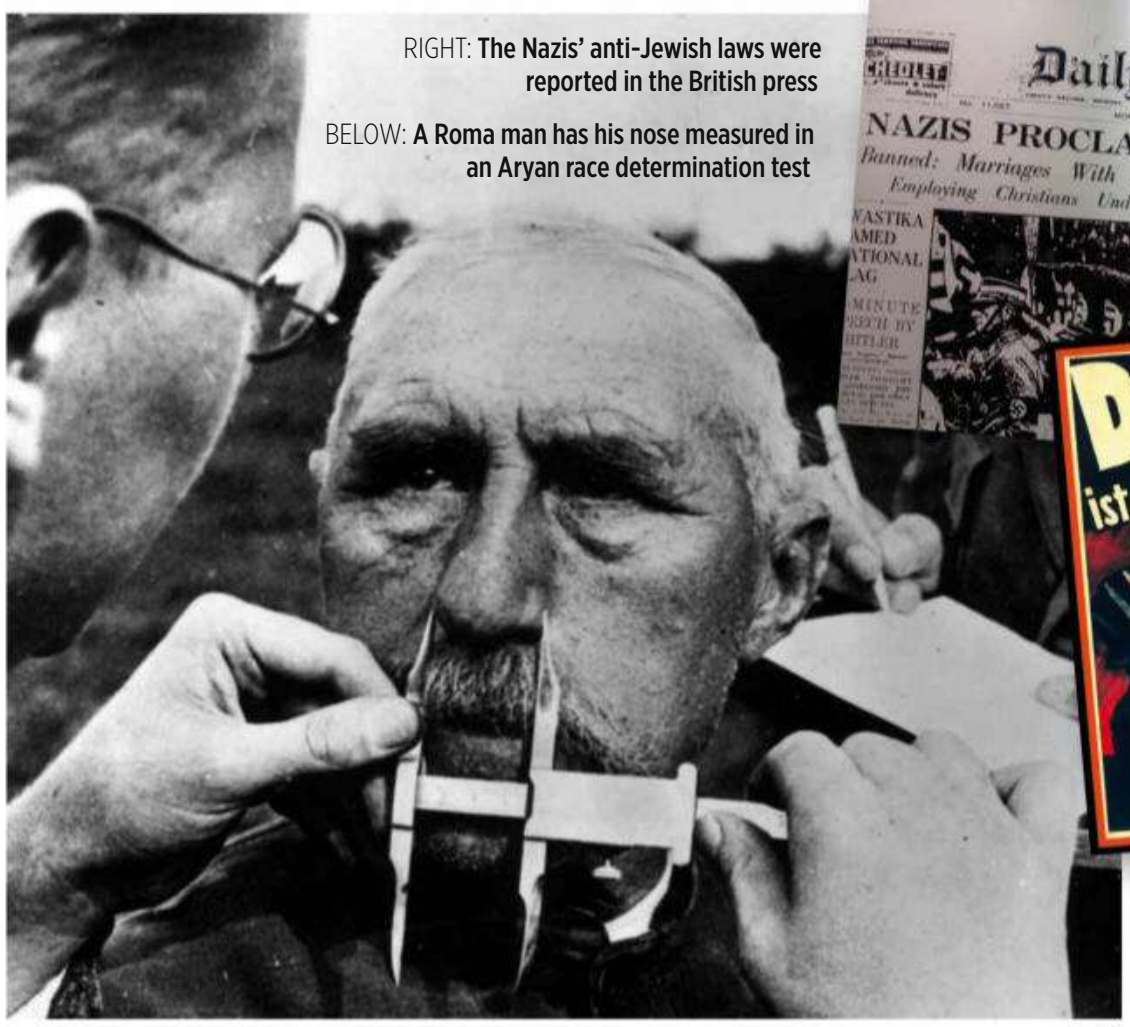
WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X1

VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Many Jews who could flee did so to make new lives abroad – but many were not so fortunate

From the moment they gained power, the Nazis engaged in a relentless campaign of persecution against Jews and other minority groups, culminating in the mass murder of millions of innocents



RIGHT: **The Nazis' anti-Jewish laws were reported in the British press**

BELOW: **A Roma man has his nose measured in an Aryan race determination test**

Nazi propaganda played to racist stereotypes to bolster the idea that all Jews posed a threat

In Nazi ideological terms, Jews were more than simply *Untermensch* (inferior people) they were a global threat that, if not eradicated, would eliminate the 'Aryan master race' that Hitler was so desperate to promote in Germany. It was a belief that sat at the heart of Nazi thinking and, within weeks of its gaining power in 1933, the Nazi Party was making good on its pledge of 1920 to segregate Jews from 'Aryan' society and remove their political, legal, and civil rights.

Between 1933 and 1939, more than 400 laws and decrees designed to segregate Jews were passed, with anti Jewish legislation touching all parts of daily life. By early 1934, Jewish participation in the medical and legal professions had been severely curtailed; civil servants had been dismissed; the licences of Jewish tax consultants had been revoked; Jewish actors could no longer perform on stage or screen... the list went on and on. At a local government level, too, further restrictions were introduced, many of which impacted life at home including, in Saxony, the ban on slaughtering animals according to Jewish ritual and dietary laws.

ESCALATING PERSECUTION

In September 1935, the Nazis used their annual rally in Nuremberg to announce new laws that would have a profound impact on Germany's Jewish population, as well as Germans who had previously felt safe from anti Semitic legislation. The Nuremberg Laws, for the first time, legally identified Jews not by their religious faith, but as a 'race', defined by birth and by blood. Now, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents (whose adherence to the Jewish faith had been recorded in the official census) was, regardless of the religion they practised, defined as Jewish.

Under the new laws, German Jews were no longer Reich citizens and were prohibited from having relations with, or marrying, anyone with "German or German-related blood". Now legally stateless, Jews found themselves subjected to a new, even more rigorous, wave of anti-Semitic legislation that segregated them from all aspects of public life, as the Nazis strove to 'Aryanise' Germany: Jewish workers and managers were dismissed, property and assets had to be registered with the government, Jewish-owned companies were sold to non-Jewish Germans – usually for well below their market value – and university students could not sit their exams. In Düsseldorf, Jewish patients could no longer be treated at public hospitals. Even Jewish soldiers who had fought for Germany in World War I were not allowed to be named on war memorials.

Tens of thousands of Jews from eastern

"LEGALLY STATELESS, JEWS WERE SUBJECTED TO A NEW WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITIC LEGISLATION"

Nazi Brownshirts encouraged Germans not to buy from Jewish businesses

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X4

Nazi mobs rained destruction on Jewish property in the 1938 pogrom known as *Kristallnacht*

Europe (mostly from Russian and Polish territories) who were living in Germany were forcibly expelled, with many finding themselves unwelcome in their native countries and with nowhere to go. In 1938, around 17,000 Polish Jewish residents were forcibly deported over the Polish border, but were refused entry by the Polish government. Stateless, they had no choice but to stay in a narrow stretch of 'no man's land' around the Polish border area, with little in the way of food or shelter. It was a story that would become all too common.

SEEKING SAFETY

With the Nazis in power and flexing their political muscles, many German Jews, fearful of what was to come, chose to flee the country. Between 1933 and 1937, around 130,000 Jews left Germany many for countries such as the US, Canada, Portugal and eastern Europe with waves of emigration spiking after events such as the November pogrom (*Kristallnacht*, or Night of Broken Glass) of 1938 Nazi organised attacks on Jewish people and property, supposedly in retaliation for the assassination of a German diplomat by a 17 year old Jew of Polish heritage. Hundreds of Jewish people were murdered during the violence, and some 30,000 Jewish men were rounded up

NOT ALL CAMPS WERE EXTERMINATION CAMPS

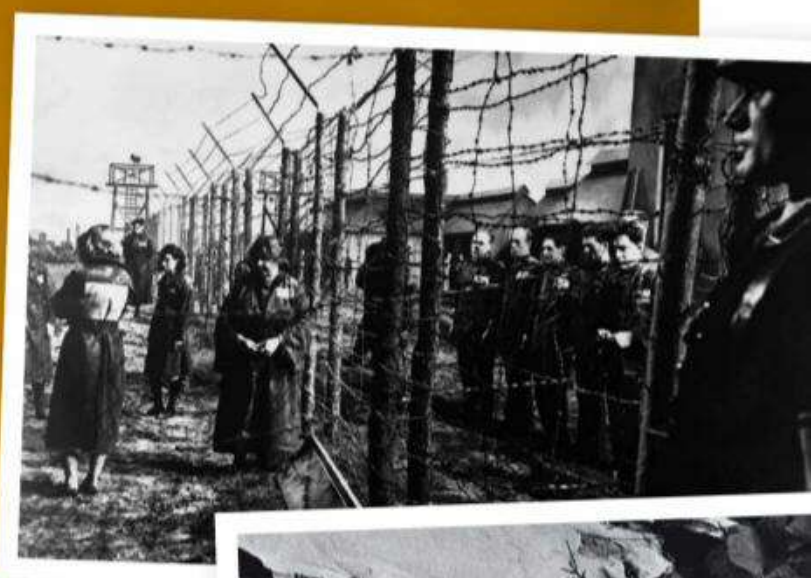
Some camps existed solely for the purpose of killing people – but not all

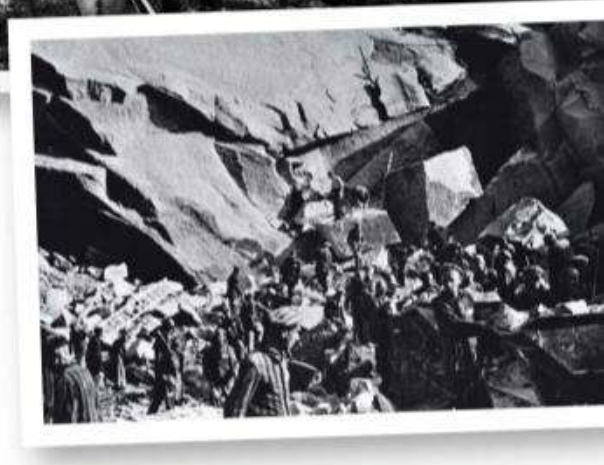
The first concentration camps were opened in 1933, during the Nazi Party's rise to power, and were initially intended for enemies of the Nazi cause, such as socialists and communists. "But," says Professor Sir Richard J Evans, "in 1937–38, these camps acquired a new function, which was to house so-called 'asocials' – petty criminals, the 'work-shy', vagrants and others. And that's when they expanded in number and size. More than 700,000 people – overwhelmingly slave labourers – were held in concentration camps by the beginning of 1945."

In addition to concentration camps, several other types of incarceration sites were established by the Nazis, including forced-labour camps, prisoner-of-war camps (for Allied prisoners of war, as well as Poles and Soviets), transit camps (temporary holding facilities for Jewish prisoners awaiting deportation) and extermination camps. By the end of World War II, more than 40,000 camps and incarceration sites (including ghettos) existed across Nazi Germany and its occupied territories.

Unlike the Nazi extermination sites, concentration camps were not specifically designed to murder prisoners on arrival, but being sent to one often meant a death sentence. Prisoners were subjected to horrific conditions from the moment they arrived – deployed as forced labourers for SS construction projects, including the expansion of the camps themselves, or made to carry out backbreaking labour in stone quarries, coal mines, as well as positions in factories and within the camp itself. Worked well beyond the point of exhaustion, prisoners received very little food – often a watery slop of rotten vegetables and meat – and were crammed into slum-like barracks. Diseases such as tuberculosis, dysentery and typhus were rife, while physical punishments at the hands of SS guards often resulted in broken limbs and sores from floggings.

"Extermination camps were a different matter," says Evans. "These were established essentially from late 1941 and early 1942, for the purpose of exterminating Jews, by gassing in closed chambers or closed vans. Camps such as Treblinka, Sobibór and Belzec existed purely for the purpose of killing people. Jews were arrested, taken out by train and marched straight into gas chambers where they were murdered. Many Jews were also killed by SS forces behind the eastern front and buried in pits. A lot of them were put into ghettos before they were transported to the death camps and lived in conditions which had extremely high death rates. They were malnourished, there was disease, and no attempt was made to give them decent human living conditions."





ABOVE: **An electrified barbed-wire fence separates men and women at this camp**

RIGHT: **Detainees of Flossenbürg concentration camp cut stone in a quarry**

LAWS & DISORDER A timeline of increasing persecution

22 MARCH 1933

The first concentration camp is established in Dachau, about 10 miles north of Munich. Initially a camp for communists, socialists and other political prisoners, by 1944 it will hold around 30,000 prisoners.

1 APRIL 1933

Less than three months after coming to power, the Nazi Party organises a national boycott of Jewish-owned businesses.

7 APRIL 1933

A law is passed prohibiting Jews from working for the Civil Service.

25 APRIL 1933

The number of Jewish students in any one public school is limited to no more than five per cent of its total student population.

10 MAY 1933

Thousands of "un-German" books are burned by students in 19 university towns and cities across Germany, among them works by disability rights advocate Helen Keller. The move heralds a new era of state censorship.

"THERE WERE SEVERAL BRAVE ATTEMPTS TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST NAZI PERSECUTION BY A NUMBER OF RESISTANCE GROUPS"

and transported to concentration camps the first time a mass arrests of Jews had taken place purely on the grounds that they were Jewish.

As their synagogues, cemeteries, homes and businesses burned down around them, thousands of Jewish families tried desperately to gather the necessary paperwork and evidence needed to apply for admission to another country. But with many foreign governments only willing to accept a small number of refugees, and with most of their assets already seized by the Nazis, many had no choice but to remain in Germany.

On 1 September 1939, German forces invaded Poland, home to more than three million Jews. With no specific plan in place for what to do with the country's Jewish population, German occupation authorities established Poland's first ghetto, in Piotrków Trybunalski the first of more than 1,100 ghettos that would eventually be established in German occupied eastern territories.

Meant as a temporary solution while the fate of Europe's Jews was being decided, Jewish ghettos held hundreds of thousands of people in tiny areas of land, sometimes for up to four years. Living conditions were terrible and many people succumbed to starvation and disease. Those who did survive were shot in mass graves following the German destruction of the ghettos between 1942 44, or were deported to extermination camps.

There were several brave attempts to fight back against Nazi persecution by a number of resistance groups. One of the most famous took place in Warsaw, in April 1943, after German troops entered the ghetto in order to deport its surviving inhabitants to extermination camps.

The main part of the uprising took place between 19 April and 16 May 1943 and saw around 700 Jewish fighters clash with German forces using weapons secretly obtained via the Polish military underground movement, *Armia Krajowa*. Others in the ghetto did their best to thwart deportation efforts by refusing to gather at collection points and hiding in underground bunkers. Despite holding the German soldiers at bay for nearly a month, the Warsaw ghetto was finally razed to the ground; around 42,000 inhabitants captured during the uprising were sent to forced labour camps or concentration camps where most were later murdered. At least 7,000 Jews died fighting or hiding in the ghetto, while another estimated 7,000 were captured at the end of the fighting and deported to Treblinka extermination camp.

The Warsaw ghetto uprising was the largest of its kind by Jews during World War II, and the bravery of those who took part inspired other ghetto uprisings, in Bialystok and Minsk.

WIDENING THE NET

Although Jews were seen as the primary 'enemy' to the survival and expansion of an 'Aryan master race', the Nazis persecuted other groups they deemed to be 'racially inferior', or for other reasons such as sexual orientation. Along with Jews, Roma and Sinti communities (pejoratively called 'gypsies') also lost their German citizenship after the Nuremberg Laws were introduced in 1935, and many were placed in Jewish ghettos.

In 1943, around 23,000 Roma and Sinti from all over occupied Europe were deported to Auschwitz Birkenau where they were placed in a family camp known as the *Zigeunerlager* ('Gypsy' camp) an estimated 21,000 of these men, women and children died in the camp, or were murdered in the gas chambers. Between 200,000 and 500,000 Roma and Sinti people are thought to have been killed during the Holocaust, with many others forcibly sterilised or confined in concentration camps as enemies of the Third Reich.

Millions of Slavs in the Soviet Union and Poland classed as 'racially inferior' were also targeted by the Nazis and in 1939, the *Einsatzgruppen* were created mobile killing squads from the SS whose main mission was to rid Germany of Jews in both countries.

ABOVE: **Persecution wasn't limited to Jews: this is Antonina Donga, a Roma woman transported to Auschwitz in 1942**

TOP: **This iconic photograph captures the moment Jews are rounded up during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of April/May 1943. Those depicted here are bound for an extermination camp**

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X6

LAWS & DISORDER A timeline of increasing persecution

14 JULY 1933

A new law orders the enforced sterilisation of anyone living with one or more of nine listed disabilities.

29 SEPTEMBER 1933

The Hereditary Farm Law is passed, banning Jews from owning or running farms.

1 APRIL 1935

The German government bans Jehovah's Witness organisations. Those who refuse to renounce their faith face imprisonment or execution.

28 JUNE 1935

A revision of the German criminal code expands the range of criminal offences to encompass any form of sexual contact between men, facilitating the systematic persecution of homosexuals.

15 SEPTEMBER 1935

Persecution of Jewish people escalates with the passing of two new laws: the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of the German Blood and Honour. The laws also apply to Roma and Sinti people.

In Poland, Roman Catholic clergymen, Polish nationalists and Jews were rounded up and murdered: by December 1939, these units had killed some 50,000 Poles. Following the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the Einsatzgruppen were tasked with finding and shooting Jews and Soviet officials. In all, these killing squads alone are thought to have murdered around 1.5 million Jewish people.

'BURDENS' ON SOCIETY

Nazi ideology revolved around the creation and success of the 'Aryan master race' in Germany; to achieve this, it was believed that only the fittest and strongest would, and should, survive and procreate. There was no room in Nazi Germany for anyone who was deemed 'unfit' or unable to work.

The 1933 Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases was the first step to making this goal a reality. The new law mandated the forced sterilisation of people living with diseases and conditions that were then deemed hereditary, such as mental illness, blindness and deafness. Labelled as burdens on German society, individuals who fell into any of the listed categories of hereditary disease were to be sterilised. Roma, Afro German people, and individuals categorised as 'asocial' and a threat to the 'purity' of the Germanic race including drug addicts, prostitutes and vagrants – were also sterilised against their will.

Jewish children arrive in Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, their age providing no protection from Nazi atrocities

Homosexuals were marked out in concentration camps by a pink triangle on their uniform

60 000 RM
kostet dieser Erbkranke die Volksgemeinschaft auf Lebenszeit
Volksgenosse das ist auch Dein Geld
Lesen Sie
Neues Volk
Die Monatshefte des Rassenpolitischen Amtes der NSDAP

ABOVE: **The prosthetics of murdered Holocaust victims** INSET: **This Nazi poster promotes the 'euthanasia' of disabled people – because they cost too much**

Six years later, the persecution of disabled people escalated dramatically with the launch of the Aktion T4 programme, which saw an estimated 70,000 mentally ill and disabled adults involuntarily euthanised between 1940 and 1941. (The Organisation of the Disabled in Germany persuaded the Nazis that physical disabilities were not hereditary; as long as they were able to work, those with physical disabilities were not specifically targeted by the Nazis).

Asylums across German-occupied territories were emptied of their patients, and six gassing installations were set up across Germany as part of the programme, including the Hadamar Institute – chillingly known as the 'House of Shutters'. At this clinic alone, almost 15,000 men, women and children were murdered between 1941 and March 1945. The Aktion T4 programme itself is thought to have been responsible for the murders of up to 200,000 adults and children.

THE 'FINAL SOLUTION'

On 31 July 1941, after nearly a decade of escalating anti-Semitic violence, segregation and legislation, preparations for the final, horrific stage of the Nazi plan for Europe's Jews began. Having been authorised by Hitler to eliminate any threat to Germany, following the German invasion of the Soviet Union, Nazi leader Hermann Göring wrote to SS general Reinhard Heydrich ordering him to "submit to me as soon as possible a general plan of the administrative material and financial measures necessary for carrying out the desired final solution of the Jewish question". In spring 1942, Operation Reinhard was launched: its aim was to murder the approximately two million Jews living in German-occupied Poland at specified extermination sites.

The following year, in January 1942, Heydrich unveiled his plans for the "final solution of the Jewish question" to 14 top Nazis at the Wannsee Conference, held in a suburb of Berlin. Dismissing the previous 'solution' to the Jewish 'problem' – deporting every European Jew to the island of Madagascar – Heydrich instead proposed "the evacuation of the Jews to the east". His meaning would have been clear: the systematic murder of Jews was soon to reach its height, with millions transported to death camps.

It's unlikely that precise numbers of people killed by the Nazis will ever be known, but an estimated six million Jewish men, women and children are thought to have been murdered during the Holocaust. Added to these are the innumerable deaths of other minority groups: victims of the Aktion T4 programme, Roma and Sinti communities, Slavic peoples, communists, socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, PoWs and countless others.

Their lives – and the lives of millions of others who suffered as a result of Nazi persecution, as well as those who lost their lives in later genocides – are remembered across the world every year on Holocaust Memorial Day, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz on 27 January 1945.

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

9–10 NOVEMBER 1938

A series of violent anti-Jewish pogroms take place across Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia.

OCTOBER 1939

Aktion T4 – the Nazi involuntary 'euthanasia' programme – is initiated with a mandate to kill anyone deemed to have a "life unworthy of living."

15 NOVEMBER 1940

German authorities order the sealing of the Warsaw Ghetto. The move confines some 350,000 Jewish people into an area of about 1.3 square miles.

1 SEPTEMBER 1941

Jewish people over the age of six living in the Reich, Alsace, Bohemia-Moravia and the German–annexed territory of western Poland are required to wear a yellow Star of David on their outer clothing at all times.

16 DECEMBER 1942

Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler orders all Roma people living in the so-called Greater German Reich to be deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau – in February 1943, nearly 18,000 Roma are deported to the camp.

ABOVE: **Members of a Nazi-affiliated organisation known as the *Deutsches Frauenwerk* (German Women's Work) make straw shoes**

MAIN: **Women from various Nazi groups harvest rye near Berlin**

RIGHT: **Nazi ideology dictated that women should be mindful of their domestic responsibilities – particularly in the kitchen**

THE MOTHERS OF THE 'MASTER RACE'

In the eyes of Hitler and his acolytes, Nazi women were expected to be loyal and subservient breeding machines

According to Joseph Goebbels, "the mission of women" was to be "beautiful and to bring children into the world". Consequently, in the interests of creating and promoting an 'Aryan race' the Nazis dispensed with traditional Christian-based morality and instead focused on ensuring that children were racially pure – regardless of whether their parents were married or not – and encouraging 'racially unsuitable' or childless couples to divorce.

Nazi values were instilled in Germany's female population from a young age, with millions of girls attending the Nazi-run *Jungmädelbund* (Young Girls' League) from 10 to 14, before enrolling in the *Bund Deutscher Mädel* (League of German Girls) until they reached 18, where they were prepared for marriage and motherhood. Adult women continued to be indoctrinated with Nazi propaganda through the women's branch of the Nazi Party called the *Nationalsozialistische Frauenschaft* (the National Socialist Women's League). Run by Gertrud Scholtz-Klink – who told her followers that "our weapon is the soup ladle" – the *Frauenschaft* emphasised the importance of motherhood, running courses on maternal health, cooking and childcare.

Hitler himself enthusiastically espoused the importance of staying home and raising children, saying: "There is no greater honour for a woman than to be mother to the sons and daughters of a people. This is the highest nobility that she can attain." Although, of course, the Nazis only wanted the 'right' kind of women to be bearing children: 'Aryan' women, with blonde hair, blue eyes and, ideally, generous hips suited to childbirth.

The Nazis introduced a host of measures to encourage women to produce lots of children. The Law for the Encouragement of Marriage saw newly married couples receive a 1,000-mark loan, of which they could keep 250 marks for every "pure Aryan" baby they bore. Any mother who gave birth to four children was awarded

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X6, IWM X1

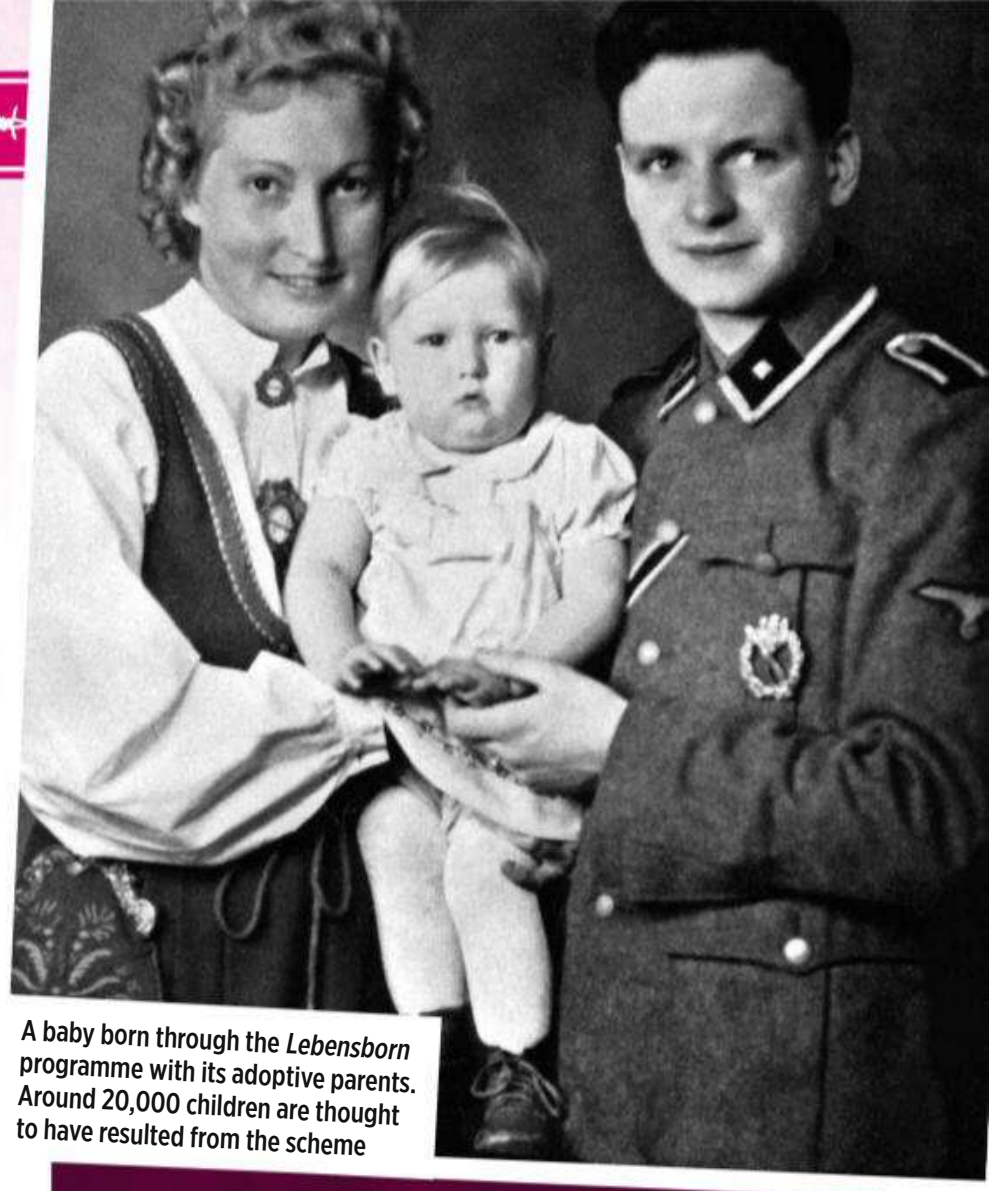
the Mother's Cross; if she gave birth to six more, Hitler himself would stand as the 10th child's godfather. If any 'Aryan' woman had an abortion, however, she would be severely punished. Indeed, during World War II, special courts across Nazi Germany could impose the death penalty for any woman who did so.

Feminist associations were shut down by the Nazis – though they did not abolish women's suffrage. Hitler and the rest of the party were at pains to portray women as still having a vital role in society. He declared: "If we say the world of the man is his commitment, his struggle on behalf of the community, we could then perhaps say that the world of the woman is a smaller world, for her world is her husband, her family, her children and her home. But where would the big world be if no one wanted to look after the small world? How could the big world continue to exist, if there was no one to make the task of caring for the small world the centre of their lives? No, the big world rests upon this small world! The big world cannot survive if the small world is not secure."

Generally, German women were not required, or encouraged, to work. Nazi ideology was backed up by generous family allowances to enable soldiers' wives to devote themselves to bringing up their children while their husbands were away, so they saw no need to work outside the home, a decision supported by the Nazi government. Consequently, around seven million forced labourers were transported to Germany from Poland and other occupied countries to keep the German war effort going.

In 1943, German women aged 17–45 were required to register for work, although only around a third of those eligible did so. The 400,000 or so German women who did take on jobs during World War II tended to work in armaments factories, in agriculture or as auxiliaries in the country's military. Around 3,700 women were guards in concentration camps, with some even working on the Nazis' secret sterilisation and euthanasia programme – known as Aktion T4. Irmgard Huber, for instance, was the chief nurse at the Hadamar Institute; she was later sentenced as an accomplice to murder in at least 120 cases.

WORDS: RHIANNON DAVIES



A baby born through the *Lebensborn* programme with its adoptive parents. Around 20,000 children are thought to have resulted from the scheme

UNNATURAL SELECTION

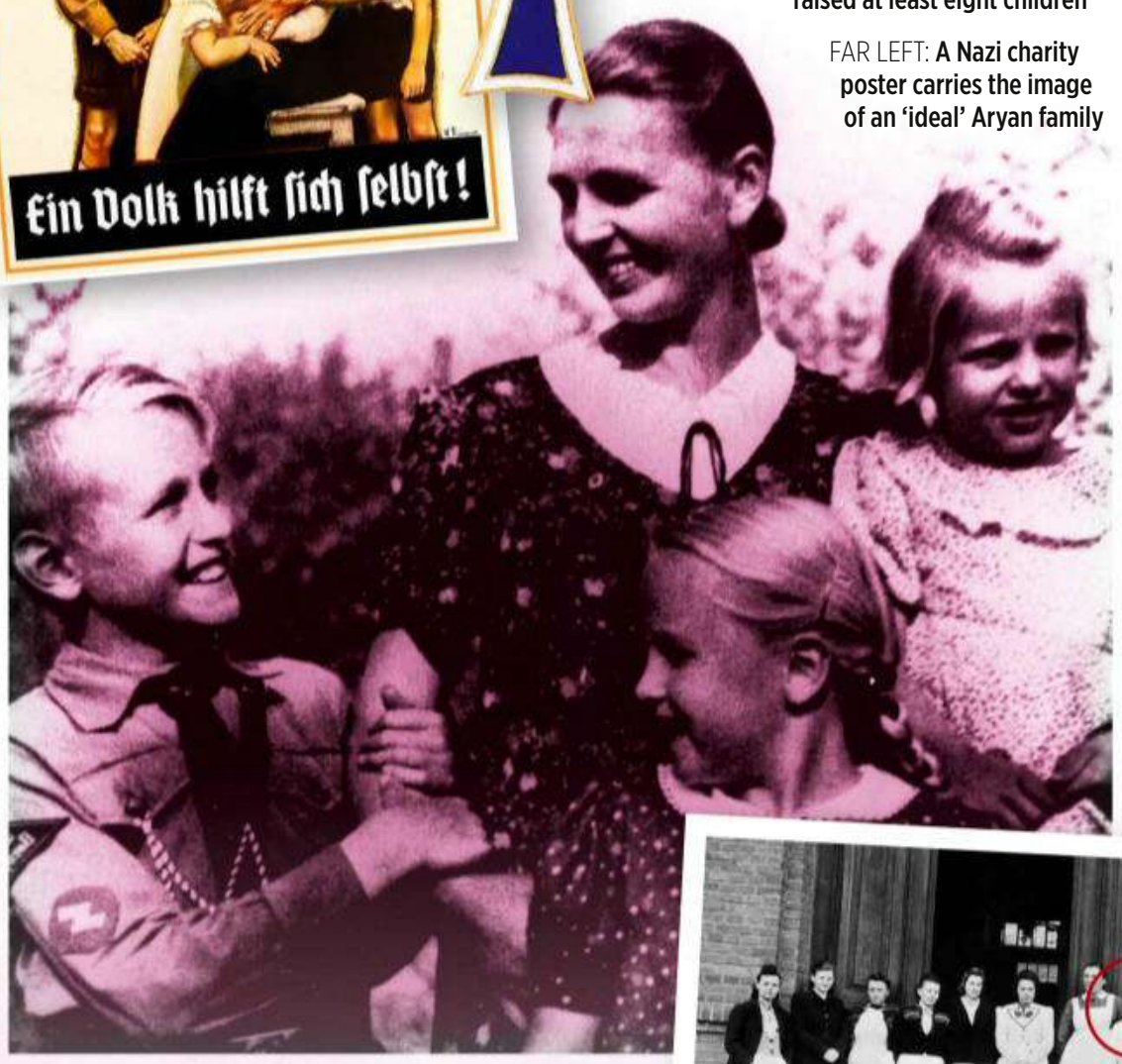
Obsessed with eugenics, the SS hatched a disturbing plan to preserve 'racial purity'

To help create a so-called 'master race', in 1936 the leaders of the SS unveiled a new, state-sponsored programme: *Lebensborn* (Fountain of Life). As part of this policy, SS members – married or not – were encouraged to father at least four offspring. The resulting *Lebensborn* babies were the property of the state, financially supported, cared for in purpose-made institutions or adopted by state-approved couples, with the idea that they would be taught to be supremely loyal to the Nazi Party. Around 20,000 babies were born as a result of this programme, mostly in Norway and Germany.

Hildegard Trutz took part in *Lebensborn*, and was sent to a Bavarian castle where she lived in luxury and fell pregnant by an anonymous SS officer. She said: "As both the father of my child and I believed completely in the importance of what we were doing, we had no shame or inhibitions of any kind." Her baby son was taken from her after two weeks to go to a dedicated SS children's home. She never saw him again.

LEFT: **A gold Cross of Honour was awarded to eligible German women who conceived and raised at least eight children**

FAR LEFT: **A Nazi charity poster carries the image of an 'ideal' Aryan family**

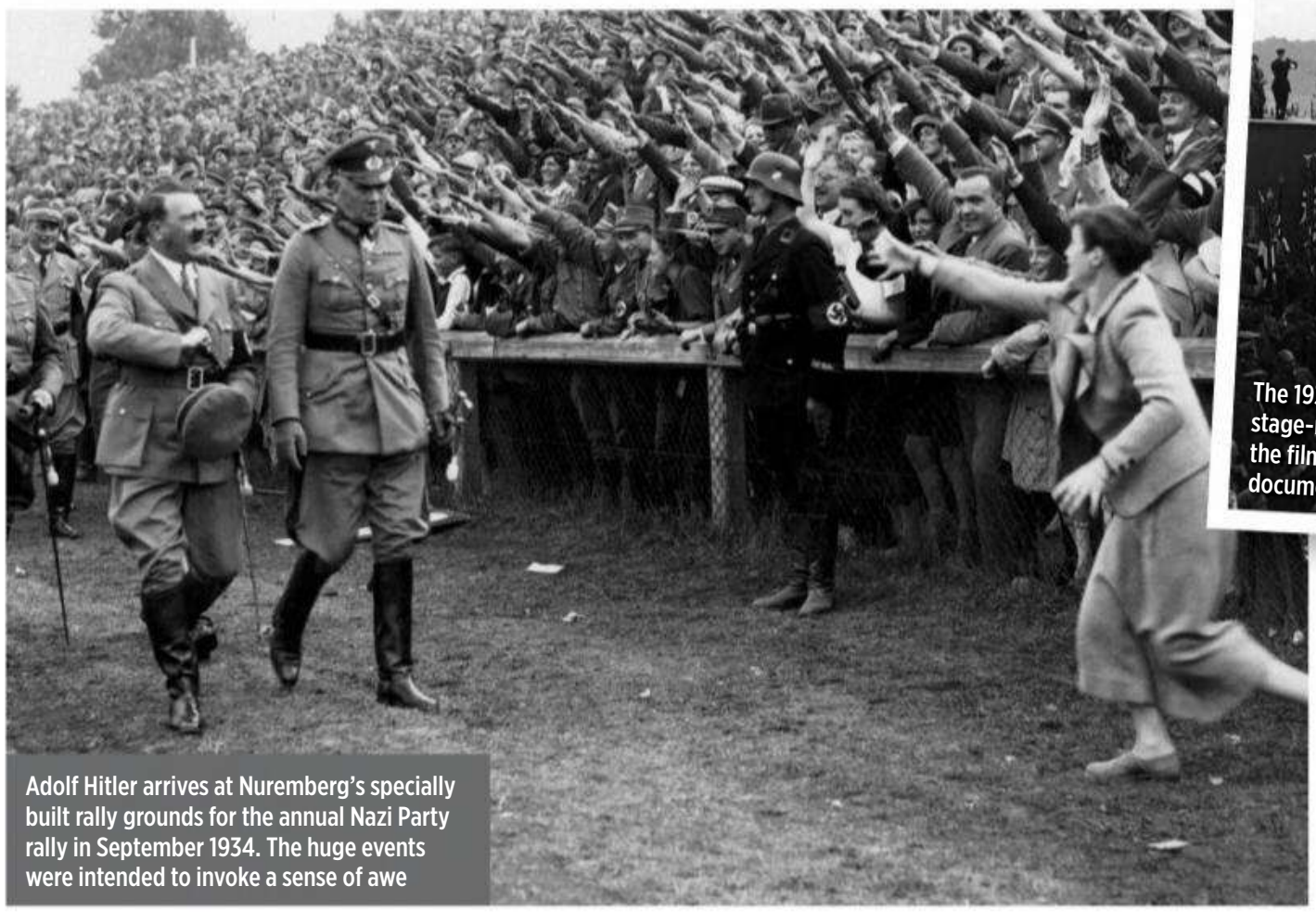


A Nazi propaganda image, c1936. Hitler stated there was "no greater honour for a woman than to be mother to the sons and daughter of a people"

Nursing staff at the Hadamar Institute, including Irmgard Huber (*circled*)

MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Under the watchful eye of Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda machine controlled virtually every form of creative expression – enabling the regime to promote its hateful ideology and build Hitler's cult of personality



Adolf Hitler arrives at Nuremberg's specially built rally grounds for the annual Nazi Party rally in September 1934. The huge events were intended to invoke a sense of awe

The 1934 rally was carefully stage-managed to accommodate the filming of Leni Riefenstahl's documentary *Triumph of the Will*

On 5 September 1934, thousands of smiling men, women and children gathered along the streets of Nuremberg to welcome the arrival of Adolf Hitler. Famed for its medieval architecture and Bavarian charm, the city was to again host the Nazi Party's annual rally, where the Führer would address the masses and put forth his visions for the Fatherland.

Nearly every building – from shops to apartment blocks – appeared to be draped in flags and banners bearing the Nazi swastika, and by the time the leader's motorcade rolled past on its way to the Deutscher Hof Hotel, the chanting from the crowd had grown to fever pitch: *"Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler!"*

While first-hand memories of the occasion have almost entirely faded from history, the jubilant scenes are immortalised in Leni Riefenstahl's documentary film *Triumph of the Will*. Assembled using footage shot throughout the 1934 congress, the slick spectacle of parades, speeches and songs was screened in cinemas across Germany the following year, where it proved a box-office success.

Very much embodying the regime's pervasive message of *Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer* (One People, one Empire, one Leader), the film's heavy-handed symbolism and straightforward rhetoric made it the perfect example of Nazi propaganda, reflecting a strategy that Hitler had outlined in the first volume of *Mein Kampf* a decade earlier:

"All effective propaganda must be limited to a very few points and must harp on these slogans until the last member of the public understands what you want him to understand," the Nazi leader had written. "Its task is not to make an objective study of the truth... its task is to serve our own right, always and unflinchingly."

STIFLING EXPRESSION

Whereas the Nazi Party had been a relatively minor force at the time of *Mein Kampf*'s original publication, from 1933 onwards Hitler had the resources to spread the lies he desired.

Within weeks of being named German chancellor, he founded the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda,

Hitler (*second right*) with Nazi Party officials at the 1934 rally. Joseph Goebbels, Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, is seated far left

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X4

Verniggerung der bildenden Kunst
den rassischen Instinkt des Volkes entwurzeln, die Grenzen des Blutes niederreißen helfen!
Der Giftpilz
Ganz Deutschland hört den Führer
mit dem Volksempfänger

ABOVE: **Visitors observe an exhibition of 'Degenerate Art' in Berlin, 1938**

LEFT: **A poster promotes the cheaply available *Volksempfänger* (People's Receiver)**

FAR LEFT: **The 1938 children's book, *Der Giftpilz* (The Poisonous Mushroom) likened Jewish people to deadly fungi**

placing Joseph Goebbels at its helm. A former journalist, Goebbels had already done much to push Hitler's vision in the Berlin based Nazi newspaper, *Der Angriff* ('The Attack'), which he had founded in 1927. But now, with the party in power, Goebbels set about controlling the entire press, sacking Jewish staff and shutting down publications that refused to toe the party line. By 1935, more than 1,600 newspapers had been closed.

Regulation of the written word extended to other forms of publishing, too. Thousands of books penned by 'un German' authors were blacklisted, while explicitly racist children's stories began to fill the shelves of school classrooms.

Of course, books and newspapers weren't the only media manipulated by Goebbels' well oiled machine. Providing they met the required threshold of Aryan purity, creative artists such as painters, musicians and filmmakers were required to join the Reich Chamber of Culture and its various subdivisions, which dictated what they could produce and perform. Jazz was cast aside as degenerate 'negro music'; the operas of anti Semitic composer Richard Wagner were lionised; and abstract or Expressionist paintings were shunned in favour of works depicting nostalgic, nationalistic imagery, harking back to a time before Germany's supposed desecration by the Weimar Republic.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

Much like Nazi innovations in film, other new technologies were harnessed wherever possible. Recognising the power of radio, Goebbels used the state owned Reich Broadcasting Corporation to air Hitler's speeches, as well as popular entertainment programmes. And, to ensure that all Germans had the means to listen, Goebbels oversaw the production of millions of affordable radio devices, dubbed the 'People's Receivers'.

However, the extent to which people were brainwashed is difficult to gauge. On the one hand, Hitler's stranglehold on democracy meant the loudest dissenting voices had been silenced almost from the outset of the regime, while the tentacles of the police state meant many feared punishment for voicing the slightest criticism (*see box, right*).

On the other, some propaganda initiatives were embedded within Nazi schemes that enjoyed genuine mass appeal. Through organisations such as *Kraft durch Freude* (Strength through Joy), millions of ordinary Germans were able to enjoy an array of sport and leisure activities, even though they were constantly being fed messages of Aryan physical superiority and beauty.

Ultimately, much of the propaganda sought to frame Nazi visions as if they were the desires of patriotic Germans; that the dreams of Hitler and the dreams of the nation were one and the same. As Goebbels declared at Nuremberg in 1934: "It may be all right to possess power based upon guns: it is, however, better and more gratifying to win and also to champion the hearts of the people."

WORDS: JON BAUCKHAM

A REIGN OF TERROR

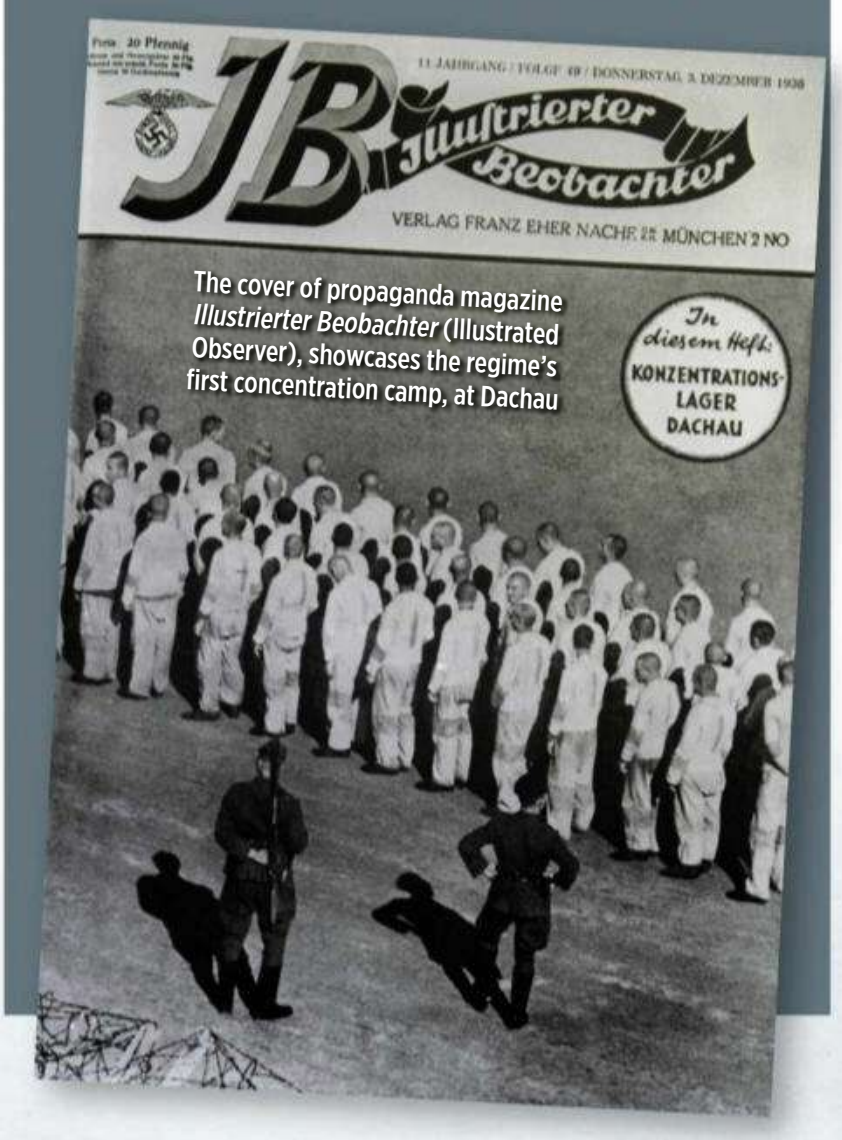
The Nazis sought to ensure that opponents would be rooted out – and punished

In much of the Nazi Party's propaganda, Adolf Hitler was presented as a messianic figure, arriving to restore Germany's honour after the turmoil of the Great Depression and the 'humiliation' of the Treaty of Versailles. Eye-catching posters showed the Führer striking heroic poses, sometimes accompanied by adoring children or crowds raising their arms in salute.

But not everyone believed the Nazis were the answer to Germany's problems, and those who spoke out against them were silenced. The *Schutzstaffel* (SS) – which had originated as Hitler's team of private bodyguards – launched vicious attacks on political opponents, while a subsidiary body known as the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD) worked on gathering intelligence to monitor threats against the regime. Violence was also meted out by the *Sturmabteilung* (SA), until the Night of the Long Knives in June 1934 curbed much of the paramilitary group's power (*see page 38*).

However, one of the most notorious organisations was the state secret police – the Gestapo – which spied on members of the public and acted on tip-offs to identify those deemed hostile to the Nazis. Many socialists and communists were jailed under new treason laws; in 1935 23,000 inmates of Germany's jails were officially labelled political prisoners.

Crucially, due to the introduction of the Enabling Act in March 1933, the Nazis were able to pass laws without the consent of the German parliament, allowing their system of oppression to gain a legal basis. Newly appointed lawyers were required to swear loyalty to the regime, and a special 'People's Court' was also set up to try people for acts of treason – resulting in thousands being condemned to death.



The cover of propaganda magazine *Illustrierter Beobachter* (Illustrated Observer), showcases the regime's first concentration camp, at Dachau

REPORTING FOR DUTY

Getting the truth out about the brutal reality of Hitler's regime was far from easy. **Will Wainewright** explores the work of the foreign journalists in Germany who covered the rise of the Nazis

Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels addresses foreign newspaper journalists and diplomats in 1933. Adolf Hitler can be seen seated on the left

Lord Rothermere (*right*) meets Hermann Göring in the latter's office, 1934. The *Daily Mail* owner was a supporter of the nascent Nazi regime

Rothay Reynolds, the *Daily Mail*'s bureau chief in Berlin, witnessed Nazi persecution of Jewish people firsthand

The Taverne was an Italian restaurant in the heart of Nazi Berlin, owned by an amiable German and his Belgian wife. But it served as more than an eatery in the years of the Third Reich, doubling as a refuge where correspondents working for the international media would meet night after night to share stories and ensure each other's safety.

Life became dangerous for foreign correspondents working in Germany as soon as Hitler was appointed chancellor in January 1933. The Nazi regime made it clear that critical reports would not be tolerated, with propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels leading efforts to influence and pressurise the foreign press. The sources reporters had relied on for information started to fear for their lives. "I beg you not to let anybody know that you heard this from me, or it might get around and I should be arrested," Rothay Reynolds, the *Daily Mail*'s bureau chief in Berlin, heard from one source soon after Hitler took power.

Hermann Göring, another of Hitler's chief associates, invited foreign newspaper journalists based in Berlin to meet him early in 1933. Vernon Bartlett, one of the British journalists in attendance, recalled how Göring began an attack against the foreign press unlike any he had witnessed. Göring informed those present that he knew "not only what they sent in their telegrams and telephone messages, but also what they wrote in their private letters".

It was not just the Nazis who made life difficult for these correspondents. Several British newspapers had owners or editors sympathetic to Hitler and the Nazis during the 1930s. *Daily Mail* owner Lord Rothermere believed the spread of communism was a greater threat to Britain than the Nazis and felt passionately that a strong Germany under Hitler was necessary to form a "bulwark against Bolshevism".

"Herr Hitler has won his majority clearly," the *Daily Mail* wrote in an editorial welcoming the result of the March 1933 election in Germany. "If he uses it prudently and peacefully, no one here will shed any tears over the disappearance of German democracy."

Lord Rothermere's beliefs put Rothay Reynolds in an exquisitely difficult position. Based on the ground in Germany, he saw how quickly life was changing for the worse. "In less than a month Germans had lost freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly," he later recalled.

A CONFLICT IN PERSPECTIVES

While Lord Rothermere's infamous "Hurrah for the Blackshirts!" comment piece in January 1934 celebrated the rise of fascists across Europe, Reynolds could see what Nazism meant for Germany: gangs of storm troopers ran wild, while Jews and many minority groups were

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3, COURTESY OF WILL WAINEWRIGHT X1

LEFT: **Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, marches through London in 1934**

BELOW: **Lord Rothermere's infamous *Daily Mail* editorial of the same year, endorsing Mosley's cause**

Hurrah for the Blackshirts

By VISCOUNT ROTHERMERE

BECAUSE Fascism comes from Italy, shortsighted people in this country think they show a sturdy national spirit by deriding it.

If their ancestors had been equally stupid, Britain would have had no banking system, no Roman law, nor even any football, since all of these are of Italian invention.

\+ \+ \+

THE Socialists, especially who jeer at the principles and uniform of the Blackshirts as being of foreign origin, forget that the founder and High Priest of their own creed was the German Jew Karl Marx.

Though the name and form of Fascism originated in Italy that movement is but one peculiar to any nation

and disgusted by the incompetence of their elders in dealing with the depression that has followed on it. The other is made up of men too young to remember the war but ready to put all their ardour and energy at the service of a cause which offers them a vigorous constructive policy in place of the drift and indecision of the old political parties.

Blackshirts proclaim a fact which politicians dating from pre-war days will never face—that the new age requires new methods and new men.

views" were an effective substitute in human affairs for action, the National Government would be the best that Britain has ever had. But the experience of the past two years has proved that these futile and time-wasting devices are no more than a screen for inertia and indecision.

\+ \+ \+ \+

THE huge majority obtained by the present Government at the general election of 1931 was the last vote of confidence that the nation will ever give to Old Gang politicians. Two years from now another general election will be almost due. The whole future of Britain will depend upon its issue.

A prolongation of the present régime may be regarded, in the country's present mood, as out of the question. There will be a pronounced swing either to Right or Left.

Crazy News Reel

Presented by

D. B. WYNDHAM LEWIS

OLD soldiers will note, with gratification, one of the Most "The Soldier's Return," a group, at the British Art Exhibition

The handsome, even foppish, soldier, wearing an expensive shirt and a natty velvet beret, and one like Squire Thorndyke in his tabards and armoured relations became overwrought—as we have seen it now doing to the village father, wrapping round him the

"LORD ROTHERMERE BELIEVED THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM WAS A GREATER THREAT TO BRITAIN THAN THE NAZIS"

oppressed. The lauded economic growth under the Nazis, which Lord Rothermere and other supporters celebrated, was built on sand.

The conflict in perspectives soon had consequences for Reynolds's reporting. In April 1933, he filed a piece on the boycott of Jewish goods and services in Germany ordered by the Nazis (purportedly in retaliation for foreign criticism of the regime blamed by Hitler on the Jewish community). Reynolds ended his dispatch with: "The *Angriff* [a Nazi propaganda publication] says: The boycott was carried out in a way worthy of the German people."

It did not appear that way in the *Daily Mail*. The words "The *Angriff* says" were omitted, altering the meaning of the piece. "The statement appeared as my considered opinion," Reynolds later wrote. It meant *Der Angriff* was able to subsequently report: "The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily Mail* says that the boycott was carried out in a way worthy of the German people."

As the decade went on, Reynolds was sidelined by the *Daily Mail*, with more and more of the paper's reporting on Hitler and the Nazis penned by G Ward Price, who was far more sympathetic to the proprietor's support for the regime. As the decade progressed, Lord Rothermere's support for the fascist movement cooled in Britain, where Oswald Mosley's black shirts movement had proven a violent embarrassment. But he remained supportive of Hitler and later in the decade he and most British newspaper owners backed the government's policy to appease the Nazis, despite the regime's increasingly aggressive foreign policy.

This support led to more interference [with the correspondence of the foreign press in Germany], which was felt especially acutely by Norman Ebbutt of *The Times*. He was one of the most respected foreign correspondents in Berlin but feared that his editor at *The Times*, Geoffrey Dawson, was too sympathetic to Nazi Germany and supportive of appeasement. Ebbutt's

ABOVE: **Men from the Nazi SS and SA paste a notice onto the window of a Jewish-owned shop in Berlin, urging Germans to boycott such businesses** LEFT: ***Der Angriff*** **('The Attack') was a prominent Nazi mouthpiece**

US broadcaster William Shirer (*pictured*) wrote that his friend, *Times* journalist Norman Ebbutt, was having his work censored

"IN AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE HIM, STEPHENS' ROOM IN JAIL WAS DECORATED WITH PICTURES OF DECAPITATED MEN"

reservations were recorded in the diaries of his friend, the American broadcaster William Shirer: "Of late [Ebbutt] has complained to me in private that *The Times* does not print all he sends, that it does not want to hear too much of the dark side of Nazi Germany and apparently has been captured by the pro-Nazis in London."

THE GRIP TIGHTENS

Despite the apparent interference, Ebbutt's reports still irked the Nazis enough for them to expel him in 1937 (no *Daily Mail* reporter was ever expelled from Nazi Germany). Expulsion soon became a badge of honour among members of the foreign press as life in Nazi Germany darkened.

The first foreign correspondent expelled was Edgar Ansel Mowrer, the Berlin bureau chief of the *Chicago Daily News*. He had already angered the Nazis by publishing a critical book, *Germany Puts the Clock Back*, just before Hitler was appointed chancellor. Mowrer's criticism continued with the Nazis in power, which the regime found particularly infuriating due to his position as head of the Foreign Press Association. In September 1933, he was forced out of Germany after Nazi authorities warned him they would not step in if he was attacked by marauding storm troopers.

Noel Panter, correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* in Munich, soon became the first British correspondent expelled. His crime had been to report on the militaristic atmosphere of a rally near Munich – an impression that the Nazis did not want conveyed to the outside world. Panter was arrested and after being held in prison for more than a week he finally arrived in Britain in November 1933.

"I was never so glad to see the White Cliffs of Dover in my life," he said. "I have never distorted news. All that I have done has been to tell the truth, which is sometimes unpalatable to certain people." British Movietone News was there to record his arrival, with a colleague saying: "We are very glad you've maintained the proud traditions of British journalism in very difficult conditions."

Philip Pembroke Stephens, a young correspondent on the *Daily Express*, was the second British reporter expelled. He revealed in more detail than other newspapers how Jews were being mistreated in the early days of the Third Reich. "New Hitler Blow at the Jews… German Jews are Facing their Darkest Days," ran a headline to one of his pieces in May 1934. However, his biggest 'crime' was reporting on Germany's secret rearmament and taking photographs of industrial sites, where arms were being manufactured.

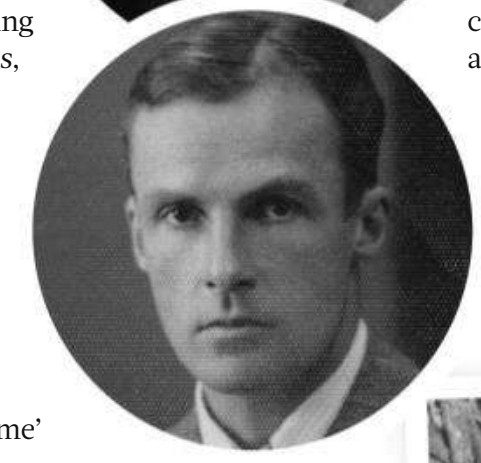
As a result, he was arrested by the Gestapo, held for days without charge and then expelled. In an attempt to intimidate him, his room in jail was decorated with pictures of decapitated men. "I was locked up like a beast in a cage behind high wire netting," he wrote. It was with some relief that he finally returned to Britain.

GROWING EXPOSURE

The Manchester Guardian consistently printed some of the most vivid and revealing reports about life in Nazi Germany. While some newspapers – including the *Daily Mail* – simply printed Nazi denials of Jewish mistreatment, *The Manchester Guardian*'s correspondent Frederick Voigt exposed the details, telling the full story. He was brave to do so, having returned to London from mainland Europe in 1933 amid rumours of a Gestapo plot to kill him.

In April 1936, he wrote the most revelatory piece yet published about the mistreatment of prisoners in German concentration camps. Though the camps were not yet the extermination centres they would become during the Holocaust, they were still being used to hold and mistreat political prisoners and other perceived enemies of the regime, Jews included.

After taking testimony from a number of eyewitnesses, he offered examples of the kind of punishment meted out to prisoners. "After 18 lashes he began to whimper. But the flogging went on until he lost consciousness," Voigt wrote in an account of how one particular Jewish prisoner was treated. "There are no legal guarantees for those who fall into the hands of the Gestapo," he added. "Many prisoners have been beaten to death, and many have died after lingering awhile as a result of their treatment."



ABOVE: ***Daily Express* correspondent Philip Pembroke Stephens was expelled for reporting on German rearmament**

CENTRE: **US journalist Edgar Ansel Mowrer drew the ire of leading Nazis for penning a book entitled *Germany Puts the Clock Back***

TOP: **In contrast, the long-serving editor of *The Times* – Geoffrey Dawson – was more sympathetic to the Nazi cause**

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3, STRIKE MEDIA X1, BBC X1

John Segrue, who worked for the *News Chronicle* newspaper, earned the rare distinction of being expelled by the Nazis twice. He moved to Austria after being thrown out of Germany in the late 1930s but was not safe there, either. In 1938 Hitler ordered his Anschluss invasion of Austria, where the Nazis began a vicious campaign of oppression against Jews in Vienna. Amid the violent scenes an SS officer mistook Segrue for a Jew and ordered him to help other Jews clean his car. Segrue obeyed, helping an elderly woman with the task.

He then returned to the officer and said: "I could not believe that the stories about your brutality were true. I wanted to see for myself. I have seen. Good day." Segrue's fearless attitude meant he did not last long in Austria; the Nazis soon expelled him for a second time. During World War II, Segrue was captured by the German army in the Balkans and died in a Nazi concentration camp. The Guild of Jewish Journalists later commended him for having "alerted the world to the true evil of the Nazi philosophy".

What of Reynolds? As the 1930s progressed, his byline appeared fewer and fewer times in the paper until he left Germany at the start of 1939. The Nazi regime's oppression of Jews went little mentioned until the bloody events of *Kristallnacht* in November 1938, when it became too dramatic for the *Daily Mail* to ignore. Though he was restricted in what he could write for the *Daily Mail*, Reynolds did his best to help. "Hundreds of victims of Nazi persecution and terror received from him material and moral support in an uneven fight with an evil system," wrote his colleagues in the press pack.

Hitler's decision to capture Prague and the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939 left Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement in ashes, and almost all British newspapers adopted an ardently anti Nazi tone afterwards. British correspondents meeting in the Taverne, the last of whom were forced to leave in September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland, would have reflected on that fact with a wry smile. Their persistent criticism of the Nazis had been vindicated at last.

WILL WAINEWRIGHT is the author of *Reporting on Hitler: Rothay Reynolds and the British Press in Nazi Germany* (Biteback, 2017)

LEFT: **Jewish people are forced to scrub a street in Vienna shortly after Austria's annexation by Germany in 1938**

BELOW: **Another picture taken in Vienna shows a Jewish boy being made to daub the word 'Jew' on a building**

GET HOOKED

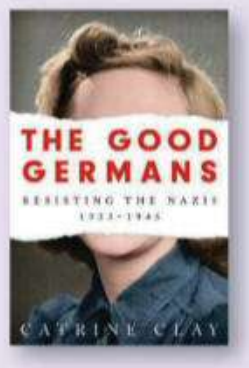
If we've whetted your appetite for the history of Nazi Germany, why not explore the topic further with our pick of books, films and podcasts

BOOKS

The History of the Third Reich Series

By Richard J Evans (Penguin)

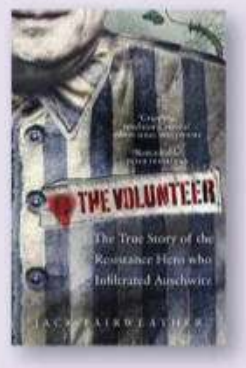
Richard J Evans's three-volume history – *The Coming of the Third Reich* (2004), *The Third Reich in Power* (2005) and *The Third Reich at War* (2008) – offers a definitive account of the rise and fall of Nazi Germany. The much-acclaimed series explores Hitler's rise to power, the daily experience of Germans in wartime, as well as the Nazi extermination of the Jews.



The Good Germans: Resisting the Nazis, 1933–1945

By Catrine Clay (W&N, 2020)

Through the lives of six very different characters, Catrine Clay explores the stories of men and women who found the courage to resist the Nazis, in the full knowledge that they could be sentenced to indefinite incarceration, torture or outright execution.



The Volunteer: The True Story of the Resistance Hero who Infiltrated Auschwitz

By Jack Fairweather (WH Allen, 2019)

Using previously hidden diaries, survivor accounts and declassified files, Jack Fairweather tells the incredible story Witold Pilecki, the Polish underground operative who, in 1940, infiltrated Auschwitz and uncovered the fate of thousands of his compatriots.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ **The Nazi Next Door** *(BBC Radio 4):* Nick Southalls explores the story of Stanislaw Chrzanowski, a Yorkshire pensioner who had a dark secret. Listen at *bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000td1x*

History Extra

▶ **For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on Nazi Germany, visit our website: *historyextra.com/topic/nazi-germany***

WATCH

Rise of the Nazis

(BBC Two, available on iPlayer)

A three-part series from 2019 that looks at how Hitler and the Nazis seized power in Germany and ushered in the death of democracy.

#AnneFrank – Parallel Stories

(Streaming on Netflix, 2019)

Created to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 2020, Dame Helen Mirren retraces Anne Frank's life through her diaries, weaving in the stories of five Holocaust survivors.

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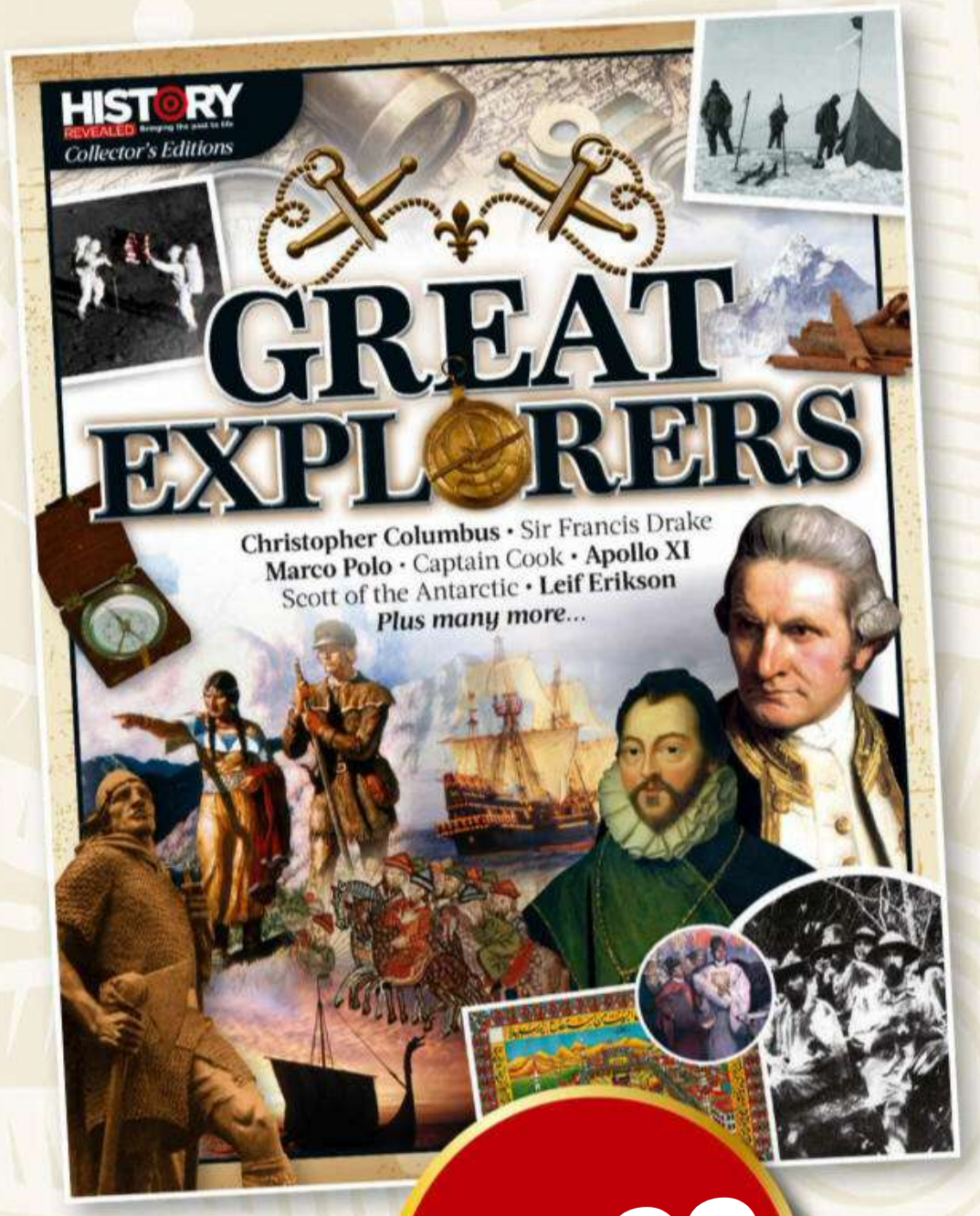
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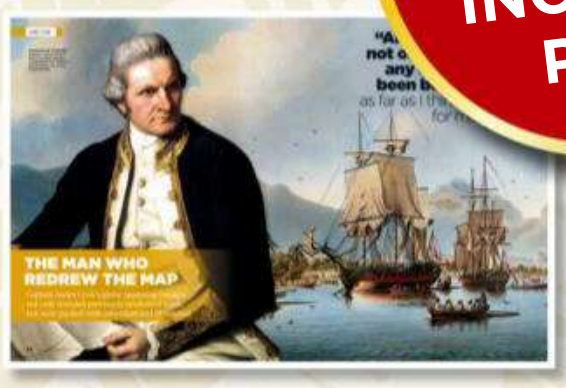

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TOP 10 GREAT ESCAPES

From the daring to the downright dangerous, we uncover some of history's most impressive bids for freedom

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

GETTY IMAGES

EMPRESS MATILDA 1

DECEMBER 1142

Caught in a lengthy civil war with her cousin Stephen of Blois – a period known as 'The Anarchy' – Empress Matilda was not one to give up her right to the English throne easily. During a bitterly cold night in December 1142 she fled the besieged Oxford Castle, where she'd been trapped for three months, wearing a white cape and evading enemy troops by blending in with the snow. Matilda and her knights then skated across the frozen River Thames and reached the safety of Wallingford Castle. The Anarchy would rage on for another decade and Matilda would never be crowned queen, but she succeeded in ensuring her son's place as the future Henry II.

Matilda's escape into the snow allowed her forces to fight another day for the crown

Casanova's scandalous exploits are ripe for screen adaptations, including a 2005 film starring Heath Ledger as the Iothario

GIACOMO CASANOVA 2

OCTOBER 1756

Famed Italian adventurer and renowned womaniser Giacomo Casanova spent much of his time escaping the wrath of furious husbands and scorned lovers, but it was an affront to common decency and religion that put him in chains in Venice. Recruiting the priest in the next cell, Casanova made holes in the roof of the Doge's Palace where they were being held and clambered up through the ceiling. The pair then lowered themselves from the roof into a room of the palace, where they decided to rest until morning! It was then a matter of changing clothes, convincing a guard they had been mistakenly locked in, walking out, and boarding a gondola to freedom.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD 3

LATE 18TH CENTURY–1860s

As calls for the abolition of slavery in the United States went unanswered, groups of escaped or freed slaves and abolitionists joined together to create the Underground Railroad: a network of routes and safehouses to help slaves escape into the North. Estimates of those rescued between the late 18th century and the American Civil War (1861-65) range from 40,000 to 100,000. Its most famous 'conductor' – a guide who led the runaway slaves – was Harriet Tubman, who may have brought as many as 300 people to freedom. In 1849, Tubman had used the Railroad herself to escape the plantation where she grew up and reach Philadelphia, before she put herself back in danger and dedicated her life to saving others. Tubman made the 90-mile journey at least 13 times.

A contender for the most daring escape from slavery also took place in 1849. Henry 'Box' Brown had himself mailed to abolitionists in Philadelphia, having constructed a three-foot long wooden crate with air holes and obtained a freight contract. He burned his hands with sulphuric acid to get out of work, loaded himself into a wagon, and endured the 27-hour journey on trains, ferries and steamboats. After his successful escape, he became an abolitionist speaker.

MAIN: **Harriet Tubman, c1900. After her days as a conductor, she spent her later years campaigning for women's suffrage**

LEFT: **Up to 100,000 slaves became 'passengers' on the Railroad**

FAR LEFT: **An illustration celebrating Henry Brown's escape through the post**

Charles II gets the better of the Roundheads in this satirical illustration

4

CHARLES II

SEPTEMBER 1651

In the wake of the crushing Royalist defeat at the battle of Worcester, Charles II – son of the executed Charles I – made a run for it. For the next six weeks, he evaded capture by hiding with loyalists and keeping his identity a secret by putting on local accents, dirtying his face and walking in uncomfortable shoes so as to resemble a peasant. His cunning disguise didn't always work – many people recognised him, but, despite the high price on his head, would not give him away.

Perhaps Charles' most helpful accomplice in his escape, however, was an oak tree. While making his way to Wales, he found his path blocked by Parliamentarians and had to seek refuge at Boscobel House in Shropshire. As Roundhead troops closed in, he spent a night hidden up a great oak tree, even eating and sleeping among its branches. Charles then continued his escape and the story spread, leading The Royal Oak to become one of the most popular pub names in Britain.

By 15 October, Charles had made it to the south coast, and was in France the next day. He spent nine years in exile on the continent while Britain was ruled as a Commonwealth, waiting to see if the monarchy would be restored – it was, in 1660.

"Charles II's night up a great oak tree led The Royal Oak to become one of the most popular pub names in Britain"

5

ALICE TANKERVILLE

1534

Alice Tankerville holds the distinction of being the only woman to escape the Tower of London. She and her husband John Wolfe had been imprisoned for murdering two wealthy merchants and making off with their small fortune. While awaiting her fate, Tankerville charmed a servant at the Tower, who agreed to help the couple escape. All three climbed down the side of the Tower to a waiting boat, but a poor bit of timing, however, saw them caught by nightwatchmen. The servant was tortured and suspended over the Tower walls (where he died from exposure and dehydration), while Tankerville and Wolfe were chained at low tide and left to drown.

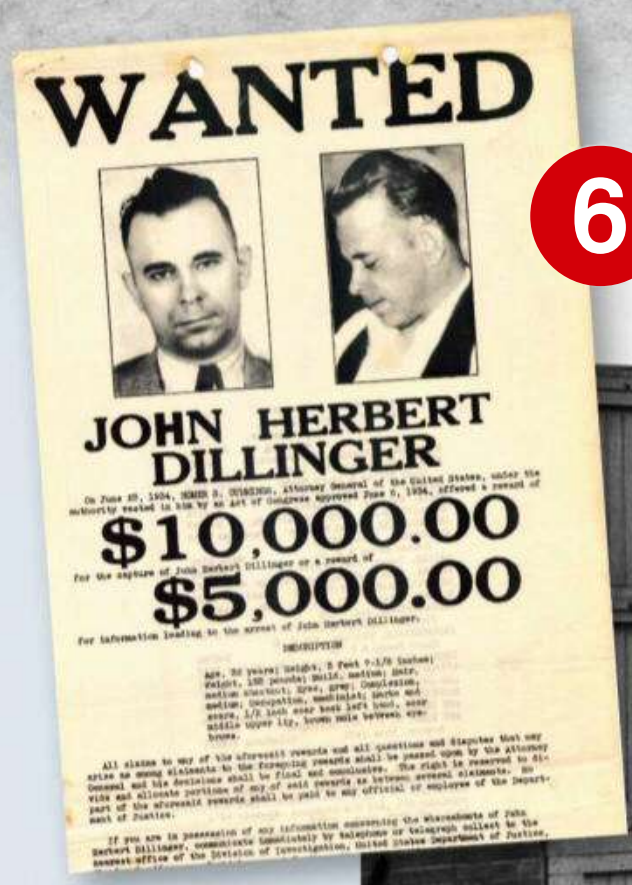
Alice Tankerville made it out of the Tower, but not much further

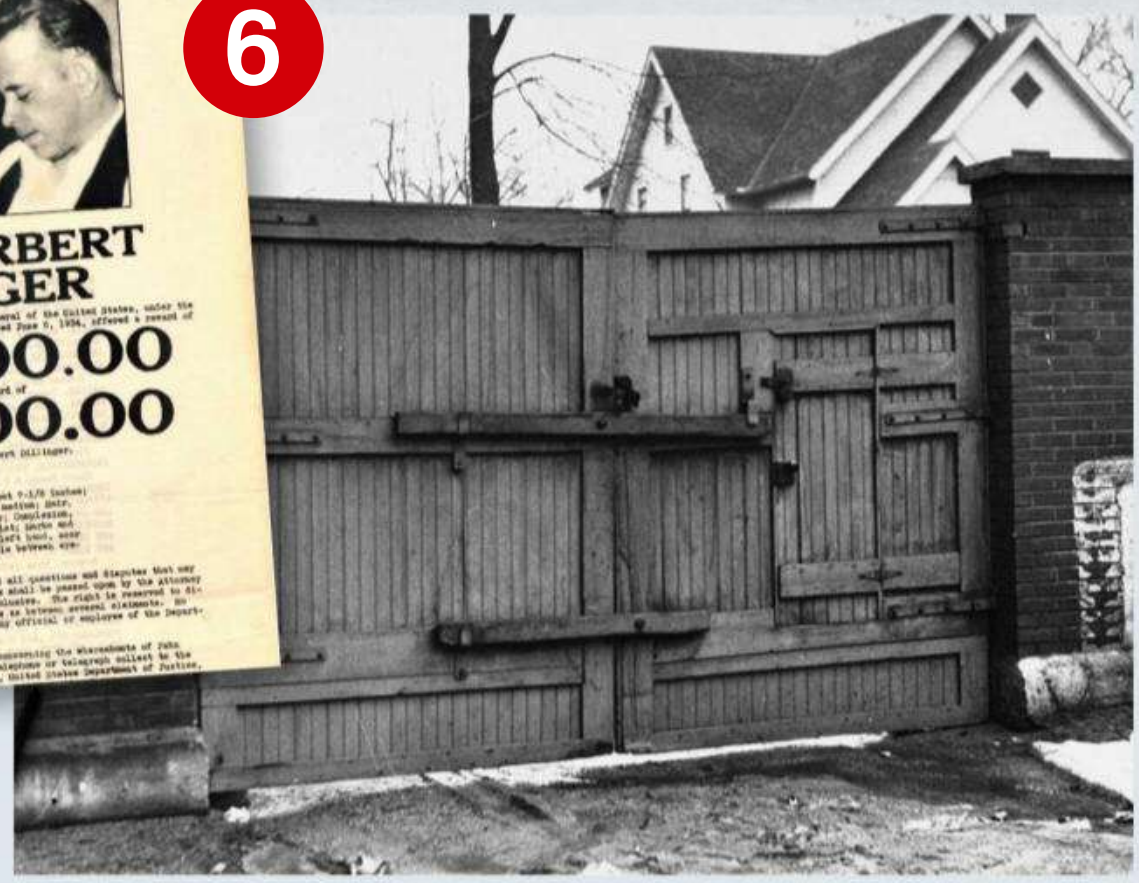
GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

6 JOHN DILLINGER

MARCH 1934

In 1934, gangster John Dillinger became US Public Enemy No. 1: robbing at least a dozen banks, shooting a police officer, evading the authorities and fascinating the public in the process. He also escaped jail when his fellow gang members impersonated the police and sprung him free. When finally caught, Dillinger was incarcerated at Crown Point in Indiana, which was declared to be escape-proof. Using a 'gun' he had whittled out of wood and blackened with shoe polish – he even carved 'Colt 38' on the side – Dillinger fooled the guards into letting him go. He then helped himself to the sheriff's new car and made a break for the state line.





Wanted man Dillinger calmly walked out of these gates as he made his second jailbreak

7 MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

MAY 1568

The year was 1567 and Mary, Queen of Scots had angered her nobles to the point that they had risen in rebellion against her. Mary was forced to surrender and abdicate her throne in favour of her infant son, and imprisoned at Lochleven Castle. During her 10 months of incarceration at the imposing island fortress, she also miscarried twins.

Things looked bleak, but Mary tried to escape, disguising herself as a washerwoman, only to be thwarted when a boatman recognised her. Undeterred, Mary hatched another scheme, this time with the aid of George Douglas (brother of the deposed queen's gaoler) and his young relative, Willie. They helped Mary, who had swapped clothes with one of her ladies-in-waiting, get off the island while everyone was enjoying the May Day festivities. Crucially, Willie also ensured that no one could pursue them as he sabotaged all the boats bar one.

The escape was for naught, though, as less than a fortnight later, Mary's troops were defeated at the battle of Langside and she put herself into the hands of her cousin Elizabeth I. She spent nearly two decades under house arrest until her execution in 1587.

MAIN: **Mary's escape from Lochleven Castle, as depicted in a 19th-century painting by William Craig Shirreff**
RIGHT: **Lochleven Castle has held many prisoners over its history, including the future Robert II of Scotland**

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X2

RIGHT: **A group of RAF PoWs pose for the camera while imprisoned at Stalag Luft III**

BELOW RIGHT: **The site of 'Harry' – the tunnel the escapees used – is now a memorial**

BELOW: **One of the camp's imposing guard towers looms over a barbed-wire fence**

THE GREAT ESCAPE

8

MARCH 1944

Just hearing the words 'great escape' makes many think of the classic 1963 movie of the same name, inspired by real-life events in March 1944.

More than 600 prisoners of war at the Nazi Stalag Luft III camp in modern-day Poland spent a year digging underground tunnels complete with air pumps and electric lighting. The real stroke of genius was the decision to dig not one, but three tunnels – believing that their guards wouldn't think to check for more tunnels once they discovered the first. On the night of the escape, however, it became evident that 'Harry', the tunnel they eventually used, ended short of the cover of the forest; in the end only 76 of the planned 200 men got out. A sentry spotted the 77th man as he emerged.

Those who escaped made a run for it, but almost all were recaptured. In what is now known as the 'Stalag Luft III murders', 50 were shot on the orders of a furious Adolf Hitler. Two men made it safely to Sweden while another made his way to Gibraltar. An Australian pilot whose claustrophobia prevented him from taking part in the escape wrote about his experiences, which went on to inspire the Steve McQueen epic.

"The real stroke of genius came with the decision to dig not one, but three tunnels"

JOHN GERARD

9

OCTOBER 1597

Jesuit priest John Gerard made the grave mistake of continuing to minister to Catholics after the religion had been outlawed in Elizabethan England. He was arrested in 1594 and eventually moved to the Tower of London, where he endured torture by being suspended from manacles. Unbroken, Gerard hatched a plan with some real zest to it. Using orange juice as invisible ink, he wrote letters to his supporters outside, which could only be read when heated. Once their rescuers were ready, Gerard and a fellow prisoner made their way onto the roof and abseiled down the Tower using a rope. Gerard fled England and lived to the ripe age of 72.

Visitors to the Tower of London can learn about Gerard's escape and the torture he endured

Bonnie Prince Charlie bidding farewell to Jacobite heroine Flora MacDonald

BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE

10

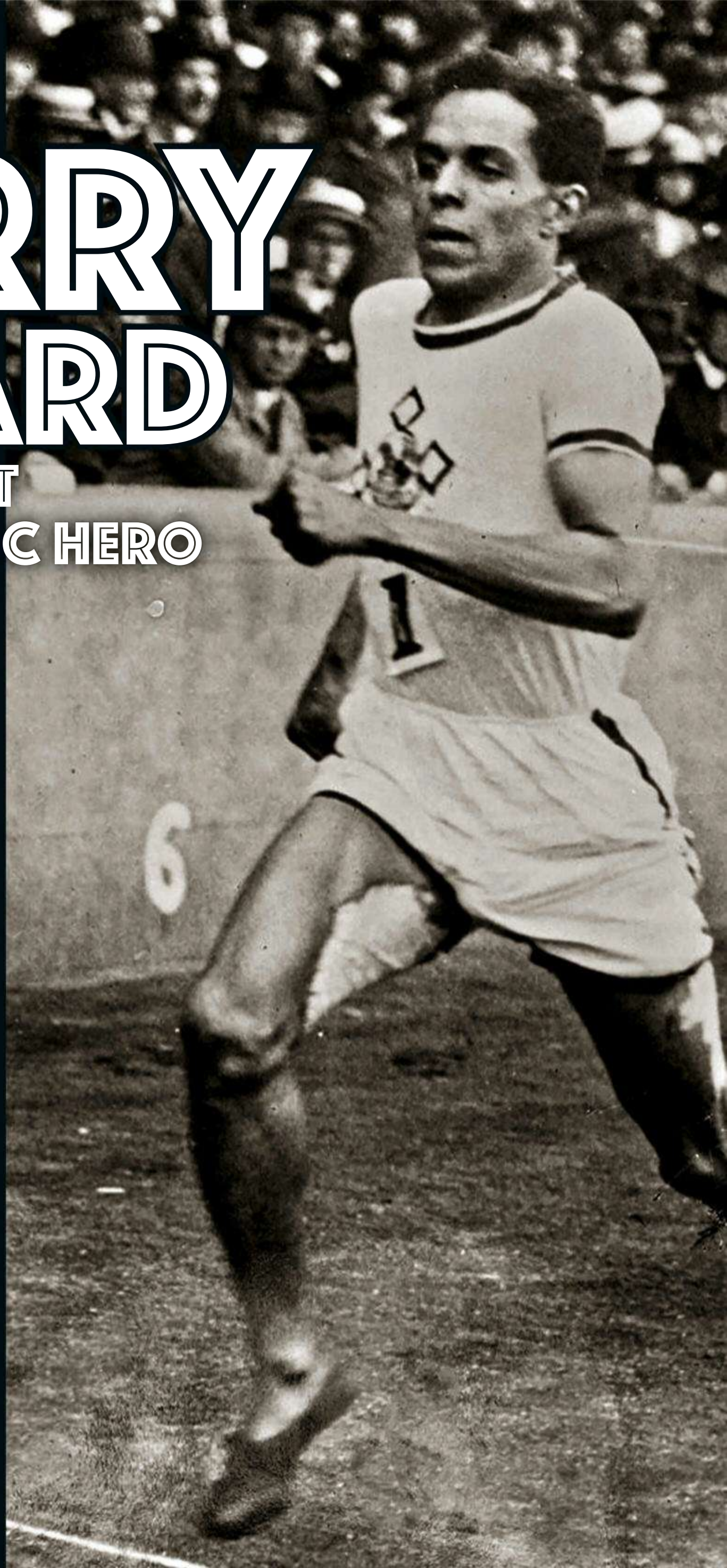
APRIL 1746

The battle of Culloden was Bonnie Prince Charlie's all-or-nothing bid to restore the Stuart dynasty. He had launched a Jacobite uprising in Scotland the previous year to claim the crown for his father, the deposed James VIII and III, but after his forces were routed at Culloden, Charlie spent the next five months on the run across the Scottish Highlands. Ceaselessly hunted, he relied on supporters for clothes, food and shelter. His real saviour was a young woman named Flora MacDonald, who helped him sail to Skye by disguising the prince as a maid named Betty Burke. The voyage became legend and was immortalised in 'The Skye Boat Song'.

HARRY EDWARD

BRITAIN'S FIRST BLACK OLYMPIC HERO

In 1920, runner Harry Edward sprinted his way to bronze at the Antwerp Games, but his exploits on the track were soon lost to history. As the 32nd Olympiad gets underway in Tokyo, **Sonia Grant** explores the extraordinary life and career of Britain's first black Olympian



A formidable talent, Harry Edward would be hailed as a 'golden boy' by England's Amateur Athletic Association

LEFT: **British nationals were held at Ruhleben internment camp near Berlin**

FAR LEFT: **Promotional poster for the 1920 Summer Olympics in Antwerp, the first to be held after World War I**

The British and French sprinters and their trainers circled Belgian officials in protest, gesticulating angrily towards the man at the far end of the cinder track with the starting pistol in his hand – the marksman they were accusing of making a false start that had resulted in America's Charley Paddock unfairly winning the race. The arguing continued for hours before the losers' objections were finally overruled.

The debacle was reported drily in *The Athletic News*: "HFV Edward… was left on his mark in the 100 metres final, owing to the misunderstanding of an order given by a marksman, and in the semi-final of the 200 metres pulled a muscle in the back of his thigh… he finished third in both races, but lost three yards at the start of the 100 and ran very lame in the 200 metres." This was how Harry Edward became Britain's first black Olympic medallist at the Antwerp Games in 1920.

Born in 1898 in Berlin, Harry Francis Vincent Edward had a comfortable upbringing. His German mother, Magdalene, was a pianist; his West Indian father, Vincent, a maître d' at exclusive restaurants. He also had a sister, Irene, who was four years younger. Edward became enthralled by athletics as a teenager and joined the Verein für Volkssport-Teutonia team, where he quickly distinguished himself as a sprinting prodigy.

Several German sporting magazines seemed fixated on Edward's ethnicity and reduced him to an epithet: "neger". Nonetheless, competing against older, more experienced runners, Edward silenced naysayers with a blistering performance at the Olympic trials held in June 1914 in Berlin: he was narrowly beaten in a world-record final, guaranteeing selection for the German squad two years later. However, the outbreak of World War I would halt such athletic ambitions with the cancellation of the 1916 Olympics.

Despite being German born and with a German mother, Edward assumed the nationality of his father, as was customary at the time – the West Indies were then colonies of the British empire and Edward was, therefore, regarded as British. Consequently, he was classified as a potential alien combatant and monitored by special agents. Edward's father avoided such scrutiny because he had been overseas working in a neutral country.

The situation changed drastically in October 1914 with a German communiqué. The ultimatum: 30,000 of Germany's nationals in Britain, many of whom had been interned or had their properties and businesses vandalised, be granted safe passage home, or else there would be reprisals. It was ignored and, in retaliation, the German government proceeded to round up British subjects.

HELD BY THE GERMANS

Harry Edward remained at liberty for around six months but, as soon as he turned 17, the age of conscription in Germany, he was duly escorted under guard to Ruhleben, a civilian internment camp just outside Berlin. By the time he arrived at the camp, coined 'Little Britain', it was self governed by British internees. Comprised of nearly 5,000 British men, of whom approximately 300 were men of colour, Edward was one of three Afro German teenagers. He integrated well unlike others, especially merchant seamen from Sierra Leone and Aden, who were housed in segregated barracks and was mentioned in glowing terms in the camp's monthly newsletter, *In Ruhleben*. Indeed, Edward spent the duration of his internment maintaining his training and shone at events such as the camp's sporting Empire Day celebrations.

When the Allies liberated Ruhleben in November 1918, Edward asked to be repatriated to England. Despite his captivity, civil servants made enquiries regarding the validity of his application for a British passport; the other teenage internees had received rejections on account of their illegitimacy. As Afro Germans they were vulnerable; during World War II, one died under mysterious circumstances in an asylum and the other escaped Nazi Germany and fled to Liberia. Fortunately for him, Edward's passport was eventually issued. However, leaving Germany meant separation from his family; his mother and sister remained. Although they would be reunited many years later, Edward would never see his father again; he died in

"EDWARD WAS CLASSIFIED AS A POTENTIAL ALIEN COMBATANT AND MONITORED BY SPECIAL AGENTS"

Poor German women sift through garbage looking for food in postwar Germany

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2

"'EDWARD WAS MORE FORTUNATE THAN MANY; HE LANDED A JOB WITHIN WEEKS OF ARRIVING IN ENGLAND'"

Harry Edward in 1922 – he was running so well at this time that hopes were high for a medal at the 1924 Olympics

LEFT: **The British Athletics Team during the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp; Harry Edward sits front right**

BELOW: **Harry Edward's running club, the Polytechnic Harriers**

Harold Abrahams wins the 100 metres at the 1924 Olympics, a triumph relived in the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*

1926 while working in Hungary.

Life in postwar Germany was grim. Citizens faced starvation and when, for instance, locals heard that a work horse had dropped dead in the streets from exhaustion, crowds hurried to the scene, knowing that the animal would be butchered and hunger pangs alleviated.

In England, the euphoria of armistice was soon replaced by cold, harsh realities: poverty, rampant unemployment, and a housing crisis from which even returning servicemen were not immune. Unrealistic promises were made by the government as Prime Minister David Lloyd George announced there would be "homes fit for heroes", but only succeeded in increasing frustrations as the rate of slum clearances stalled: out of the social housing for 500,000 promised, only 213,000 were completed.

With widespread depravation, it was little wonder that the nation's mood darkened. Money diverted for Britain's participation in the Olympics only added to mounting pressures. The event was by no means the only cause, but race riots erupted in several port cities. In Luton, the town's Peace Day celebrations descended into three days of rioting: protesters set fire to the town hall and dragged pianos into the streets to accompany the blaze. They sang and danced to renditions of 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' as the town hall was reduced to a smouldering pile of ash.

Harry Edward was more fortunate than many: he landed a job within weeks of arriving in England, teaching French and German. He also resumed his passion for athletics by joining the Polytechnic Harriers. "England has found a new sprinter," declared *The Athletic News*, adding, "Or did Germany find him for us?"

VICTORY ASSURED?

With the disappointment of Antwerp behind him, Edward became the 'golden boy' of the sport's governing body, the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA), by convincingly clocking up record beating performances. Indeed, apart from being somewhat injury prone, Edward dominated British sprinting. The sporting press was full of admiration, describing him as an "exceedingly nicely spoken and [an] unassuming athlete". Victory at the 1924 Olympics seemed to be assured.

"I took my preparation and training quite seriously. Almost every evening… I used to do calisthenic exercises… on Saturdays and on a least one evening per week I would spend two hours on the cinder track," said Edward. His hard work paid off: he was selected as a member of the British Olympic Team.

English runner Harold Abrahams would be one of Edward's main challengers. Both men had a point to prove Edward sought to vindicate his loss at Antwerp and although Abrahams had been part of Team GB in 1920, he had been eliminated in the heats.

However, shockwaves reverberated throughout athletics at a headline no one had foreseen: "HFV Edward's Exclusion from the International Team". Inexplicably, given his status as Britain's triple athletic champion, the AAA had made an agreement with its French counterpart that a qualifying pre Olympic trial would be restricted to those of English and French birth, ruling out Edward.

The snub was devastating and irrevocable. Edward travelled to the US to compete at club level and, with his relationship with the AAA in tatters, he became an American citizen forever ruling out representing Great Britain.

The summation of Harry Edward's accomplishment in *Athletics of Today* was unforgiving: "That this big, coloured boy from the West Indies might have achieved an Olympic double is obvious." In Edward's absence, Harold Abrahams accomplished Olympic sprint glory as Britain's first 100 metre gold medallist, a feat immortalised in the award winning 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*. Arguably, if fate had not conspired against him, it could so easily have been Harry Edward on the Olympic podium. Instead, his legacy languished in obscurity for a century, relegating him to an 'also-ran'.

SONIA GRANT is an independent historian, writer and author

GET HOOKED

LISTEN AND WATCH

BBC Follow Team GB's Olympic progress in Tokyo on BBC TV and radio from 23 July–8 August, as well as the Paralympics from 24 August–5 September

ALSO IN THE RUNNING…

Three more black British athletes who represented Great Britain at the Olympics

JACK LONDON

▲ Born in Guyana in 1905 to a Geordie mother and black Guyanese medical student father, Jack London (*second from left, above*) moved to the UK in 1921 where he trained with Harold Abrahams' coach, Sam Mussabini. At the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam, London won silver in the 100 metres and bronze in the 4 x 100 metres relay.

MCDONALD BAILEY

▶ Born in 1920 in Trinidad, McDonald Bailey – the "black flash" – came to Britain to enlist in the RAF during World War II. He won bronze in the 100 metres at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. After athletics he had a short-lived rugby league career with the Greater Manchester-based Leigh Centurions.

DORIS 'ANITA' NEIL

▼ Born in 1950 to an African-American father and English mother, Anita Neil (*second from left, below*) became Britain's first black female Olympian at the 1969 Games in Mexico in the 100 metres and 4 x 100 metres relay. She also competed in the same events at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

GETTY IMAGES X3, COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER ARCHIVE X2, ALAMY X1

WHAT IF... THE BABINGTON PLOT HAD SUCCEEDED?

Jonny Wilkes talks to historian **Tracy Borman** about how the Tudor dynasty could have been cut short and England hurled into a religious civil war

Queen Elizabeth I faced a number of assassination plots by Roman Catholics seeking to restore their religion in Protestant England and raise her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, to the throne. The Ridolfi Plot of 1571 had support from King Philip II of Spain and Pope Pius V, while the Throckmorton Plot of 1583 planned a Spanish backed invasion by the French Duke of Guise, head of the Catholic League. Neither came close to fruition, but another scheme was to come.

In 1586, an English Catholic named Anthony Babington was recruited by Jesuit priest John Ballard to communicate with Mary, Queen of Scots about the details of a plot to assassinate Elizabeth I and rescue the former Scottish queen from captivity at Chartley Hall in Staffordshire. Mary had been imprisoned on Elizabeth's orders for 18 years since her forced abdication from the Scottish throne; contact with the outside world was forbidden so Babington had to smuggle in coded messages. There was one problem, though: so called spymaster general Sir Francis Walsingham.

SPIDER IN HIS WEB

"Walsingham's spy network was one of the most sophisticated in the world, with contacts and informants all over Europe," says Tracy Borman, historian and author of a number of works on the Tudor period. "He was able to keep tabs on closet Catholics and would be assassins, intercept and decipher correspondence, and foil numerous plots against his royal mistress." So effective was the spymaster that he had a double agent, Gilbert Gifford, in Babington's circle from the beginning, as well as a codebreaker, Thomas Phelippes, at Chartley to decipher the secret messages.

But suppose that Gifford was not captured after meeting with Mary's supporters and cajoled into acting as a double agent, then Babington's communication with Mary may have gone unnoticed until it was too late. Borman says: "The sheer number of plots, which grew ever more sophisticated to try and outwit Walsingham's network, meant that there were always some that might have slipped through the net."

Nevertheless, a lot still had to go right for the Babington Plot to have succeeded. "Even if Walsingham hadn't discovered it early, the chances of success were slim at best," says Borman. "Of vital importance was that the plotters ensured Mary was freed and Elizabeth assassinated simultaneously. When that time eventually came, it would have probably fallen to an ex soldier by the name of John Savage to be the one to cut down Elizabeth."

That could all be for naught, however, without a Spanish invasion force to secure the Catholic position in England, something which "had never before been attempted," says Borman. Philip II had made promises before without anything materialising, so it is possible the Babington Plot would have been no different. "The same was true of the powerful English Catholic nobles. It might be overstating it to say that they were all talk and no action, but most were better at promising support than risking their lives in delivering it."

If the Spanish did land, and Elizabeth was killed and Mary made queen of England, then the most likely result of the Babington Plot would have been civil war. Protestants could not have accepted a murdered monarch or a Scottish Catholic exile put on the throne at the hands of an enemy power, and they certainly did not want to see England return to papal authority. At least half of the English were

IN CONTEXT

The goals of the Babington Plot in 1586 were to assassinate Elizabeth I and place the Roman Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne of England. To ensure success, Spain promised an invasion force. The plot took its name from Anthony Babington, who wrote to Mary – the figurehead of several Catholic plots during Elizabeth's reign – with details of her rescue from captivity and execution of her cousin.

But the coded messages, snuck in and out of Mary's residence in the stopper of a beer barrel, were intercepted and deciphered by agents of Elizabeth's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham. Babington and 13 others were caught, tried and sentenced to death by being hanged, drawn and quartered in September 1586. More than uncovering the plot, though, the letters provided hard evidence that Mary had been complicit. After Elizabeth finally, and reluctantly, signed the death warrant, Mary was executed on 8 February 1587.

Elizabeth I and her spymaster general, Sir Francis Walsingham, discuss the Babington conspiracy

GETTY IMAGES X3

INSET: **Anthony Babington with his accomplices, who planned to install Mary as queen of England**

MAIN: **Mary during her trial at Fotheringhay Castle – where she was also executed**

loyal to Elizabeth and they may have even been joined by Catholics who disliked the idea of the Spanish calling the shots.

CYCLE OF VENGEANCE

Whoever won a civil war Protestant or Catholic would have sought violent retributions against the other, but if Mary had emerged victorious then the country was destined for yet another religious upheaval.

"Mary was a champion of the Catholic cause and would have endeavoured to make England part of the Roman Catholic fold once more," says Borman, adding: "The extent of her success, given the ill fated example of 'Bloody' Mary Tudor, is debatable."

There easily could have been an ongoing period of instability and division, which, in the long term, may have affected England's role in New World exploration and settlement as seen in the 17th century. And Mary had "hardly proved an inspiring model of female sovereignty," according to Borman. "Her reign in Scotland had been catastrophic, thanks largely to her own reckless actions. I don't think it would have been long before her new subjects would have chorused: 'Bring back Elizabeth!'"

No Elizabeth on the throne would have meant no Spanish Armada, either, and an earlier end to the Tudor dynasty. But, as Borman claims, a successful Babington Plot arguably would not have led to "the most seismic of shifts". As Mary's son James inherited the throne upon Elizabeth's death in 1603, the crowns of England and Scotland were united anyway.

"No doubt Mary's propagandists would have been busy penning treatises condemning the illegitimate, heretical queen who brought her subjects to the brink of eternal damnation and threw the whole royal succession in jeopardy thanks to her stubborn refusal to marry," Borman concludes. "But I think her reputation would have been at least partly restored during the reign of James, a devout Protestant who had a low opinion of his mother."

"WHOEVER WON A CIVIL WAR WOULD HAVE SOUGHT VIOLENT RETRIBUTIONS AGAINST THE OTHER"

DID YOU KNOW?

THREE STRIKES AND OUT

The executioner needed three attempts to sever the head of Mary, Queen of Scots. He then held it up by the hair, only to realise that Mary had been wearing a wig and the head fell to the ground.

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Mary, Queen of Scots on an episode of *In Our Time*: *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b088fs7z*

NEXT MONTH

What if... Britain and France had gone to war in 1898?

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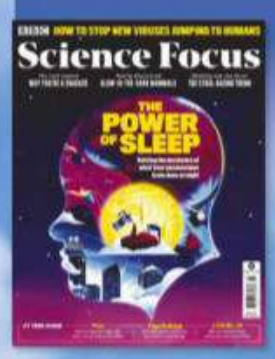

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248
The number of listed names and addresses in the first London directory, published by the Edison Telephone Company of London in 1880.

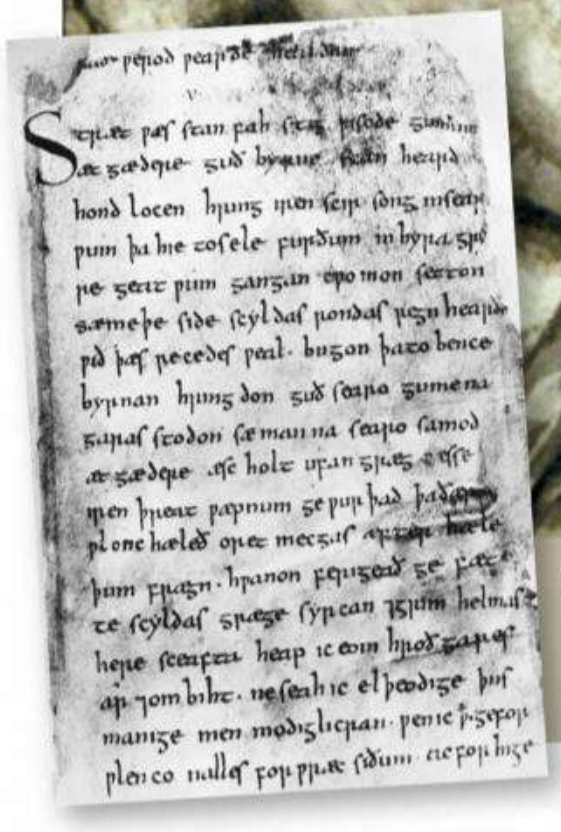
Who wrote Beowulf?

SHORT ANSWER The heroic tale has stood the test of time; the name of its creator has not

LONG ANSWER Beowulf is *the* masterpiece of Old English literature: an epic poem of 3,182 lines in which our eponymous fantasy hero rips the arm off the giant Grendel, kills the vengeful Grendel's mother, and goes out in style by taking out a dragon in his old age. It has inspired countless writers, including *The Lord of the Rings* author JRR Tolkien, and lives on in numerous seminal translations.

The identity of Beowulf's writer, however, has not lived on. A good guess is that its author was an Anglo-Saxon poet in England around AD 700–750. This was a time of religious conversion – which explains the blend of pagan and Christian throughout the tale – and while much of the narrative is fantastical, some characters and events mentioned can be traced to the real sixth century.

The story may not have had a single creator at all, of course, but was passed on by oral tradition over generations and tweaked until finally being jotted down in the 11th-century manuscript, the Nowell Codex. It is the only surviving medieval copy, now held by the British Library; its anonymous author is simply referred to as the 'Beowulf poet'.



ARMED AND DANGEROUS
MAIN: Beowulf, who has the strength of 30 men, rips off the arm of Grendel the monster
INSET: A page from the sole surviving medieval manuscript, which is held by the British Library

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1

THE RIGHT NOTES
Pianos were soon staple features in the homes of the well-to-do

Why do pianos have 88 keys?

SHORT ANSWER They didn't originally. Steinway believed the more keys, the merrier the tune

LONG ANSWER The harpsichord was arguably king of musical instruments from the 16th to early 18th centuries, but with only 60 keys it had a range of just five octaves, and its mechanism meant there was no variation in tone. That all changed in 1709 with the pianoforte.

Credited to Italian Bartolomeo Cristofori, the piano used hammers to strike the strings to make it possible to have soft and loud notes. It was only a start, though, as Cristofori's did not have more keys. These would be gradually added until seven octaves became the norm.

It was Steinway who established the 88 key standard in the 1880s and, as one of the most successful piano manufacturers of the time, the idea caught on. That range generally covers more than enough in terms of what the human ear can pick up, though Stuart and Sons did set a record in 2018 for its nine-octave piano with 108 keys.

31

The official death toll stated by the Soviet Union for the Chernobyl nuclear disaster on 26 April 1986. Long-term health effects mean unknown thousands may have died as a result.

Where does the term 'brinkmanship' come from?

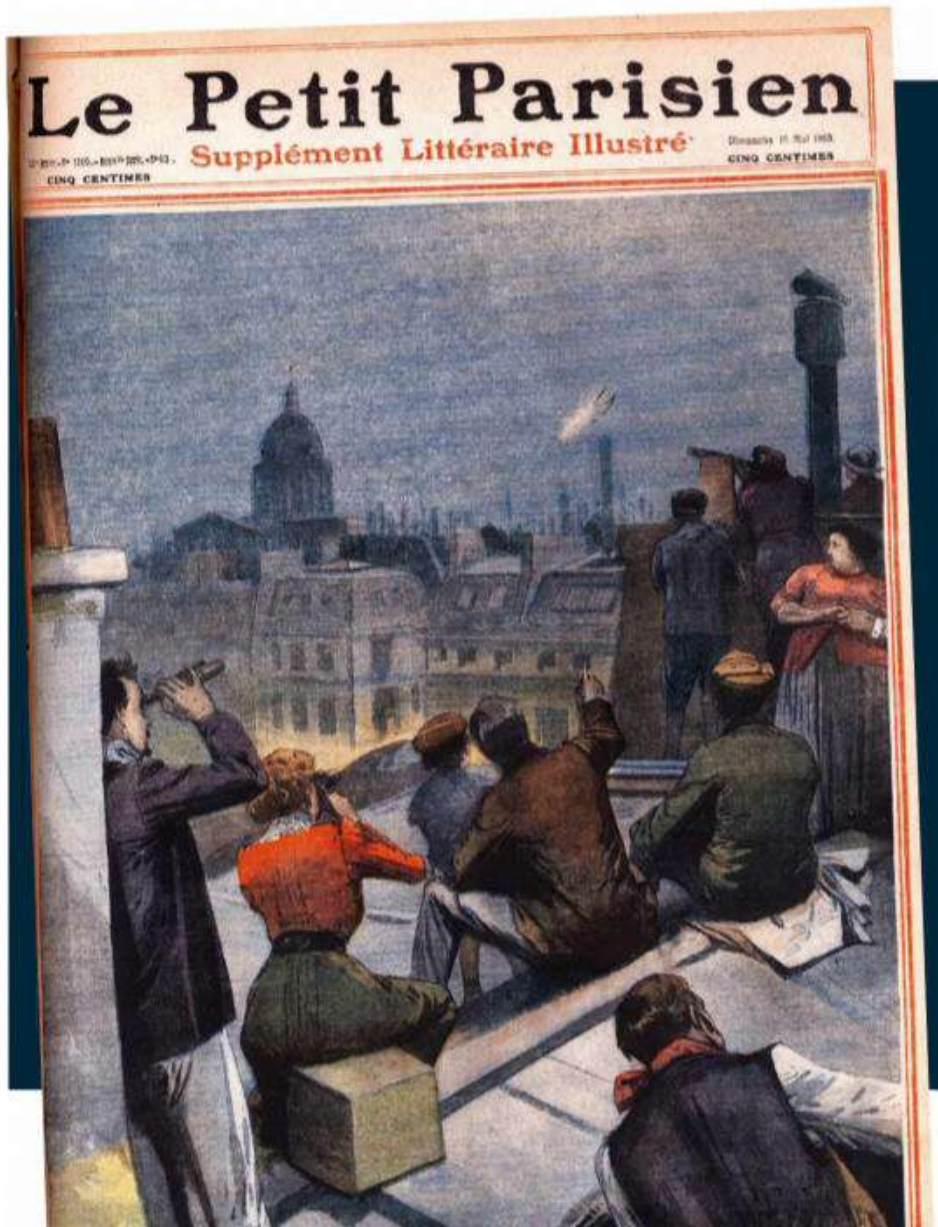
SHORT ANSWER An ancient strategy was given a 20th-century title as nuclear war loomed

LONG ANSWER The battle strategy of brinkmanship – a risky game of chicken to see which side will blink first – has existed pretty much as long as there have been battles. The word, however, is relatively new.

Interviewed for *Life* magazine in 1956, former US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said: "The ability to get to the verge without getting into the war is the necessary art... if you are scared to go to the brink, you are lost."

Such an attitude was criticised by politician Adlai Stevenson, who denounced Dulles as "boasting of his brinkmanship". The word was soon widely understood thanks to the Cold War, especially during the Cuban Missile Crisis a few years later, in 1962, when brinkmanship nearly brought about World War III.

NEVER A DULLES MOMENT
John Foster Dulles believed that the US should take an aggressive stance during the Cold War



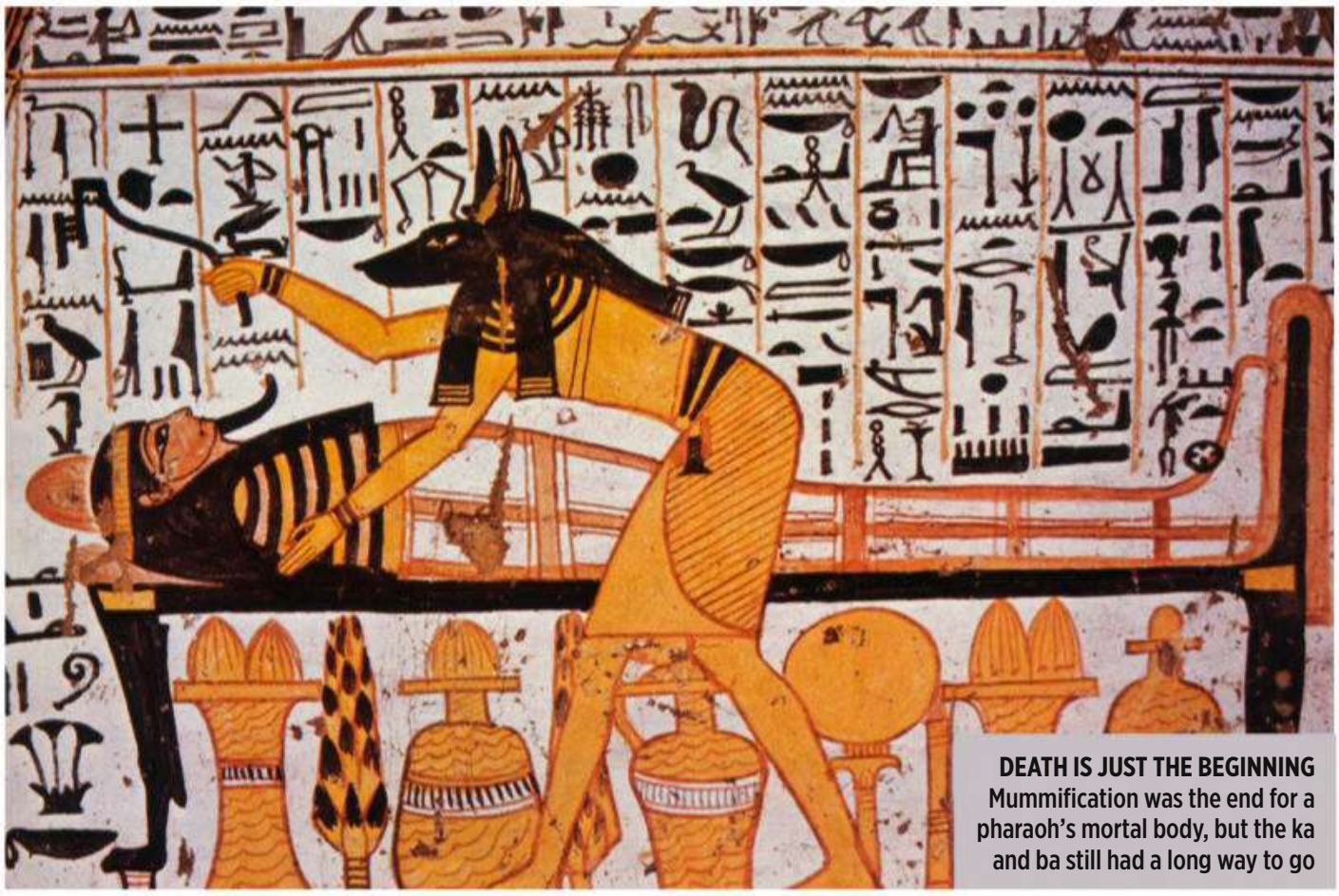
How have people reacted to Halley's Comet?

SHORT ANSWER It was seen as a bad omen for millennia. If only ancient peoples had anti-comet pills

LONG ANSWER The earliest definite appearance of Halley's Comet was by Chinese astronomers in 240 BC, and since then it hasn't always been welcomed. The celestial sighting has been regarded by countless civilisations around the world as an ominous portent, blamed for deaths and disasters. It signalled the defeat of Attila the Hun's army in AD 451 and showed up on the Bayeux Tapestry as a sign of the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Even in the 20th century, 300 years after English astronomer Edmond Halley discovered that the comet passed by every 76 years or so, it could still cause superstitious alarm. When the Earth passed through its tail in 1910, French astronomer Camille Flammarion claimed poisonous gas may "impregnate the atmosphere and snuff out all life on the planet". That ignited a panic as people stockpiled, sought divine salvation and scooped up gas masks. They even turned to swindlers selling 'anti-comet pills'.

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X1



DEATH IS JUST THE BEGINNING
Mummification was the end for a pharaoh's mortal body, but the ka and ba still had a long way to go

How did pharaohs reach the afterlife?

SHORT ANSWER Death was only the beginning of a long, dangerous journey on which their earthly sins were laid bare

LONG ANSWER After mummification and being placed in an ostentatious pointy tomb, a pharaoh could not sit back and enjoy the pleasures of the afterlife. Their journey had just begun. With their ka and ba (in essence, the soul) housed in their new eternal body, they had to navigate through the underworld, or Duat – a treacherous landscape of caverns, lakes of fire, and many beasts – and pass through 12 gates, each time reciting a spell.

The Book of the Dead, the name given to a collection of spells, would be placed in their tomb on parchment or as wall paintings to give them the knowledge and power they needed to reach the Hall of Two Truths. There, they would be made to give their 'negative confession' sins they never committed to Osiris and the 42 divine judges before the 'weighing of the heart'.

The heart, containing the sins of life, would be placed on a scale counterbalanced by a feather. If heavier, it would be eaten by the part lion, part hippopotamus, part crocodile monster Ammit, devourer of the dead. If weighing the same, the pharaoh could continue to paradise, the Field of Reeds (as long as they were nice to the tetchy ferryman Hraf hef) and achieve immortality.

DID YOU KNOW?

A NOVEL TITLE

Canadian Grant Allen's 1895 novel *The Woman Who Did* – about a woman living independently and raising a child out of wedlock – proved so controversial that several retaliatory books were written, including *The Woman Who Didn't* and *The Woman Who Wouldn't.*

ROYAL BLUE

The so-called Mad King, George III, passed blue urine according to medical records made by his physicians. This may have been due to a disorder called porphyria, or as a result of a medicine made of blue flowers.

ENEMY ENEMA

In 1076, the Duke of Lower Lorraine, Godfrey the Hunchback, was mortally wounded when an assassin stabbed him from below as he was sitting on the toilet. He was rushed to Utrecht, but died of his injuries.

IT'S A GIRL?

Until the late-15th century, the word 'girl' had little to do with the gender of a child and was used for both male and female children. Male children would be referred to as 'knave girls' and females as 'maiden child' or 'gay girl'.

Who invented the cigarette?

SHORT ANSWER While Native Americans took the first puffs, it was a 19th-century inventor who got things rolling

LONG ANSWER Tobacco was smoked in pipes, cigars and, yes, proto-cigarettes in the Americas for centuries before the arrival of the Europeans. It may be impossible to pinpoint who rolled the first one or shoved tobacco down a reed, but evidence does suggest people in Central America puffed away on them as early as the ninth century.

When brought back to Europe, pipes and snuff became all the rage. Cigarettes had to be hand rolled, meanwhile, a time-consuming process, so they remained expensive luxury items until the late-19th century – when technology helped bring them to the masses. In the 1880s, American inventor James A Bonsack developed a rolling machine, capable of producing 200 cigarettes a minute.

SMOKE 'EM OUT
Cigarettes got another popularity boost during WWI when troops were sent them for stress relief

What was cock ale?

SHORT ANSWER Move over meal-and-drink pub deals, this was both in one

LONG ANSWER Cock ale is exactly what it sounds like: a pint with a hint of rooster. An ale would be brewed along with a skinned, gutted and parboiled cock in a sack, plus fruits and spices such as raisins, nutmegs, cloves and dates. A week or so later, it would be cock ale. The meaty beverage was popular in 17th and 18th-century England, including, if accounts are to be believed, among royalty, as William III apparently preferred it over wine. Perhaps unsurprisingly, given its rather suggestive name, cock ale was said to have been a good aphrodisiac.

THAT SINKING FEELING
Nero's scheme is captured in Gustave Wertheimer's 19th-century painting *The Shipwreck of Aggripina*

How did Agrippina the Younger die?

SHORT ANSWER It wasn't the creative self-sinking ship that Nero wanted

LONG ANSWER It's safe to say that Nero had a love-hate relationship with his mother, Julia Agrippina, better known as Agrippina the Younger. She manoeuvred her son to the top and held de facto control during his early years, before he turned on her and – like all good mad Roman emperors – decided to have her killed.

Nero wanted it to look an accident so, according to varying accounts by historians Tacitus, Cassius Dio and Suetonius, he had a booby trapped boat constructed, designed to fall apart in the water. There may have been a heavy lead ceiling intended to collapse on Agrippina too.

She survived the unique assassination attempt in AD 59 and swam to shore. Her disappointed son therefore resorted to a more usual practice of sending men with knives to finish the job. Supposedly, her final act was to show her belly and exclaim: "Strike here, for this bore Nero!"

80,000

The estimated number of men, across 1,800 ships, commanded by Ching Shih, a female Chinese pirate, in the 19th century.

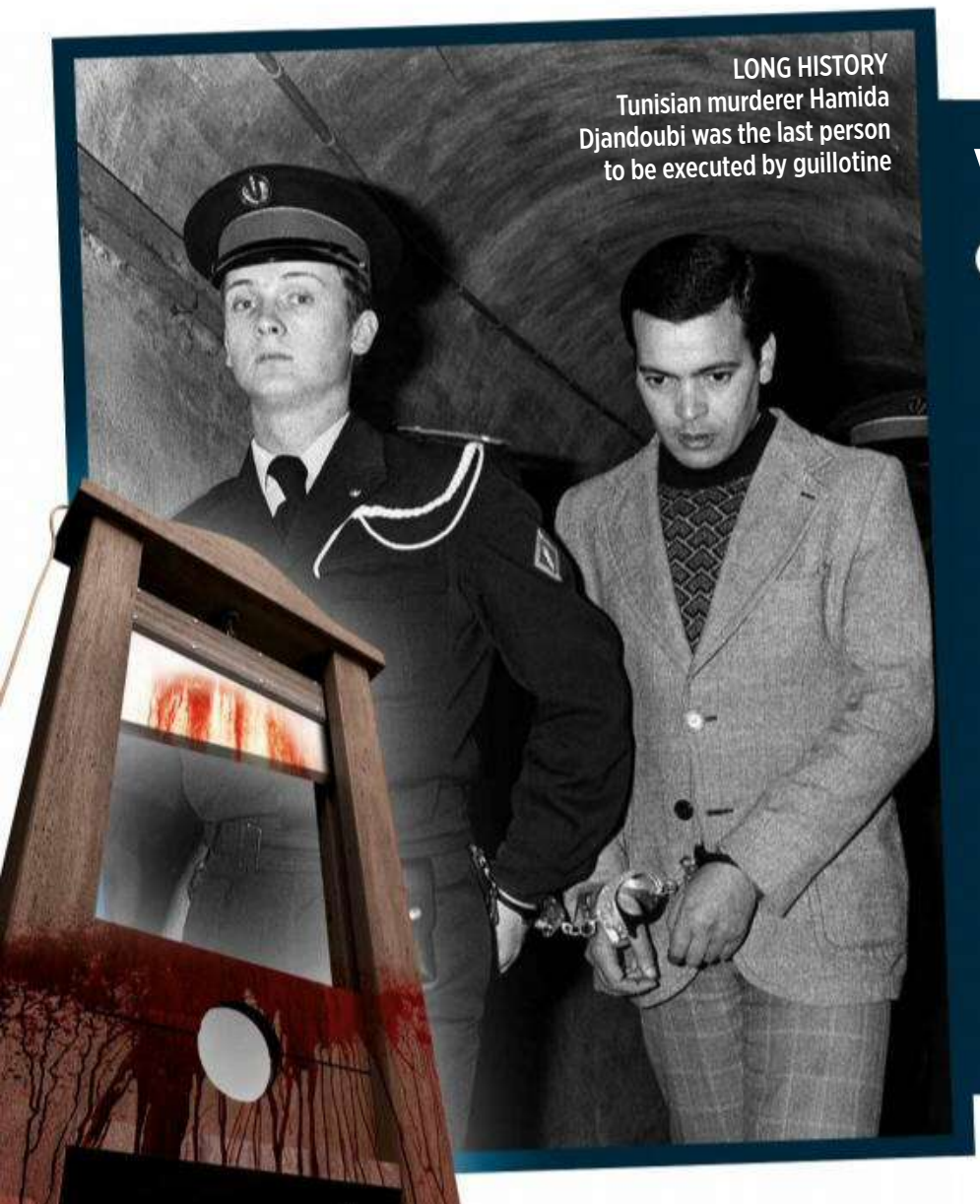
What are those little doors at the US Capitol?

SHORT ANSWER The architectural oddities would be opened when things at Congress got heated – literally

LONG ANSWER Are they where the elf Congress meets, or where the nation's rodent representatives discuss cheese taxes? Only in a children's book. The truth is more mundane. On Christmas Eve 1851, a fire broke out in the building and destroyed tens of thousands of precious books and manuscripts held by the Library of Congress. And all because the fire spread as the night guard struggled to find water.

To solve this problem, Captain Montgomery C Meigs of the US Army Corps of Engineers designed the Washington Aqueduct to bring water from the Potomac River. Taps were then added all over the Capitol, hidden behind numerous miniature doors. In the end, while they weren't needed for many fires, the water came in handy when cleaning the floors.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT
The tiny doors hide something much less fantastical than children's authors would like



LONG HISTORY
Tunisian murderer Hamida Djandoubi was the last person to be executed by guillotine

When was the last execution by guillotine?

SHORT ANSWER The dreaded blade of the French Revolution last fell in the same year that Star Wars came out

LONG ANSWER The guillotine cut a swathe through Revolutionary France and the Reign of Terror, ridding thousands of their heads. Each execution became a public show, both to strike fear and offer macabre entertainment for more-than willing crowds. There was even a group of women, the Tricoteuse, who would sit beside the scaffold in Paris and knit between beheadings – hopefully not making hats.

For centuries, the guillotine was the standard method of capital punishment in France and remained a public spectacle. It wouldn't be until 1939, when killer Eugen Weidmann's execution was accompanied by hysterical scenes as people rushed to dab up his blood as a keepsake, that executions were moved behind closed doors. In the crowd that day was a teenage Christopher Lee, who went on to become no stranger to horror as a famed film actor.

The final execution by guillotine was of Hamida Djandoubi, found guilty of torture and murder, on 10 September 1977.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2, ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL X2

THE START OF A CUNNING PLAN? Rowan Atkinson and Tony Robinson reprise their iconic roles of Blackadder and Baldrick in *Blackadder Goes Forth*, set during WWI

Was there a real Blackadder?

SHORT ANSWER No, the notion is madder than Mad Jack McMad, the winner of last year's Mister Madman competition

LONG ANSWER There was no family line of Blackadders running from a long lost history after the battle of Bosworth to World War I, sighing their way through Baldrick's cunning plans and avoiding thingy shaped turnips. Creators Richard Curtis and Rowan Atkinson didn't choose a real historical figure as the basis of their main character, but did pluck a real name at least. The surname has been around since the 15th century, when the first series was set, and there is a Clan Blackadder in Scotland, too (much to the delight, surely, of Blackadder's cousin MacAdder). The name Baldrick is even older.

Yet as part of the World War I centenary commemorations, a fascinating discovery was made: there was a Captain Blackadder in the trenches. Robert John Blackadder, of the North Scottish Royal Garrison Artillery, fought at the Somme, where he won the Military Cross. What's more, a real Private Baldrick was found James was killed, aged 23, at the battle of Messines in 1914 as well as a Lieutenant George. Like his namesake, played by Hugh Laurie, Athelstan Key Durance George was educated at Cambridge and didn't make it through the war. Unfortunately, there is no evidence of a General Melchett. Baaaah!

Why are Scottish mountains called Munros?

SHORT ANSWER Munro may not have conquered them all, but his list became a definitive climber's guide

LONG ANSWER Those wishing to climb the 282 mountains around Scotland over 3,000 feet high are said to be 'Munro bagging'. The name was affectionately bestowed after Sir Hugh T Munro, a founding member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, published a definitive list of the country's highest peaks in 1891 following an extensive survey and cataloguing mission. Since then, nearly 7,000 people have bagged all the Munros although not actually Munro himself. They include Donnie Campbell, who, in 2020, took the record for climbing them all in the quickest time, completing the feat in just 31 days, 23 hours and two minutes.

BIG BEN The highest Munro is also the highest mountain in Britain – Ben Nevis

NO CONSCIENCE A woodcut of the mass-killing of enslaved Africans thrown overboard the *Zong*

What happened on the Zong?

SHORT ANSWER The massacre of more than 130 enslaved people was a landmark court case – not for murder, but insurance

LONG ANSWER In 1781, the slave ship *Zong* was crossing the Atlantic Ocean when, according to accounts, water started running out and disease spread among the crew and the hundreds of men and women being transported to a life of enslavement in the Americas. The decision was made to throw more than 130 of the enslaved people overboard to ensure they could reach Jamaica, knowing that the ship's owners could claim insurance for the loss of their 'cargo'.

The insurers refused to pay – not out of any moral objection, just a financial one – and the case went to court, where it was confirmed that the massacre was legal and liable for compensation. The resulting appeal went to Chief Lord Justice, the Earl of Mansfield, who ruled against the slavers after evidence showed the crew to have been at fault. The *Zong* case, a harrowing reminder that enslaved people were seen as financial assets and not humans, encapsulated the horrors of the Middle Passage and emboldened the emerging abolitionist movement.

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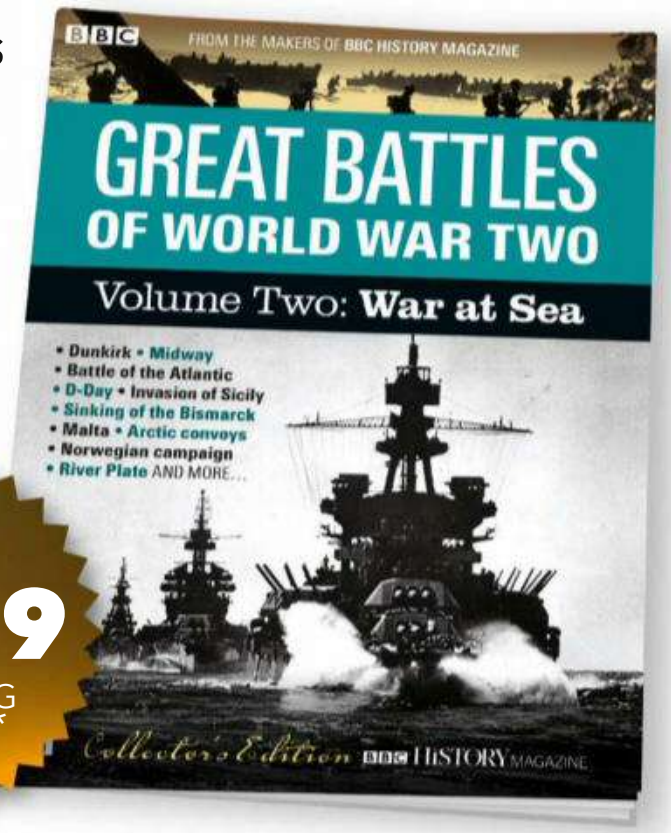
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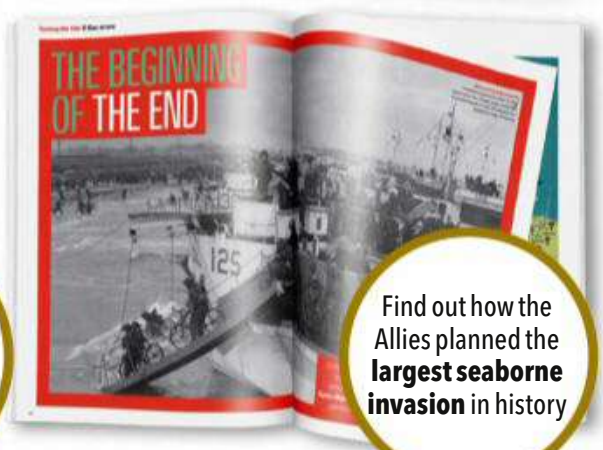

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GETTY IMAGES

ONE TO WATCH

A 17th-century wooden dolls' house hailing from Nuremberg, Germany, is just one of many V&A treasures to feature in the new series of *Secrets of the Museum*

Conserving the past

Secrets of the Museum / BBC One, July

The business of preparing exhibits for public display can be fraught with unexpected difficulties. Just ask the V&A's Elania, one of the curators *Secrets of the Museum* follows as she prepares a display revealing that watercolours, not oil paintings, were often the medium of choice during the Renaissance.

As part of the display, Elania wants to include a watercolour that hasn't been seen for more than a century. But there's a problem. The surface of *Christ, St Paul and the Theological Virtues* (c1660), a preparatory drawing for a larger oil painting by the Flemish painter Jacob Jordaens, is covered in white dots. Unless conservator Alan can solve the problem, the watercolour may not be in a fit state to be seen by the public.

Elsewhere in the first episode of the returning fly-on-the-wall series, there are plenty of stories that reveal the sheer breadth of the V&A's collections, which bills itself as "the world's leading museum of art, design and performance".

This gives the V&A a broad remit, as becomes clear when bass player Jim Lea, who co wrote Slade's greatest hits with frontman Noddy Holder, discovers some old stage outfits in his attic. These include a red lamé suit from Slade's heyday. However, the suit has seen better days and will need some repairs before it can be added to the V&A's rock and pop collection. It's a job for conservator Jo, who grew up listening to Slade.

The opening episode also follows efforts to get a touring exhibition on the national dress of Japan, the kimono, ready to be sent out. One of the exhibits is a kimono that's the work of Serge Mouangue, a contemporary Cameroon born designer known for fusing West African and Japanese influences. Can mannequin dresser Gesa perfect the tying of the *obi*, the knotted sash around the middle of the kimono, and meet Mouangue's exacting standards so the item can go on display?

The series also follows efforts to repair an old stage costume worn by Jim Lea of 1970s glam rockers Slade

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, LONDON X2

Have I Got News for You stalwart Ian Hislop explores the legacy of the UK's four main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, and the important role played by King Alfred – a statue of whom stands in Wantage, Oxfordshire (*inset*)

Together but different

This Union: The Ghost Kingdoms of England / BBC Radio 4, Monday 2 August

The United Kingdom has four national football teams: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It's a reminder, if any were needed, that identity in the UK is rarely a simple matter. But as a new series presented by Ian Hislop makes clear, this isn't just because the UK is made up of different nations, but because regional identities play in here too.

One place to look for the roots of such identities in England is in the aftermath of the Romans leaving Britain at the beginning of the fifth century. This was a time when the nation had to establish what it was and what it stood for, and yet it was also a time of fragmentation.

Having long seen himself as something of an English outsider after spending so much of his childhood overseas, the *Have I Got News for You* star travels through the four main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the past: East Anglia, Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex. What will exploring their distinct histories reveal about England and Englishness today? Expect that greatest of unifiers, King Alfred, and his successors to feature.

Hislop's series is one of four on the theme of the union on BBC Radio 4. In *This Union: A Sea Between Us* (Monday 12 July), Andrea Catherwood explores what unionism means in Northern Ireland today. Later this year, listen out for *This Union: Two Kingdoms* (September), in which Allan Little traces events leading up to the 1707 union of Scotland and England; and *This Union: Being Welsh* (October), which finds the BBC's Middle East editor, Jeremy Bowen, exploring the nature of Welsh identity in the 21st century.

Tragedy and change

Uprising / BBC One, July

Events in New Cross, southeast London on 18 January 1981 should have shocked Britain. In the early hours, a fire swept through 439 New Cross Road, where Yvonne Ruddock was celebrating her 16th birthday. The blaze claimed the lives of 13 black teenagers, yet was little reported by national newspapers. The black community thought the fire was the result of a racist arson attack, but an initial inquest saw the coroner strongly suggest the fire was accidental.

Four decades on, the three-part *Uprising* looks back at New Cross and at subsequent events, the Black People's Day of Protest march and the Brixton riots. The overall aim of the series, directed by Steve McQueen (*Small Axe*) and James Rogan, is to place what happened in the centre of the national story rather than, in McQueen's words, for New Cross to be viewed as "a tragic footnote".

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Linked by blood...

Murder, Mystery and My Family / BBC One & BBC iPlayer, Monday 28 June

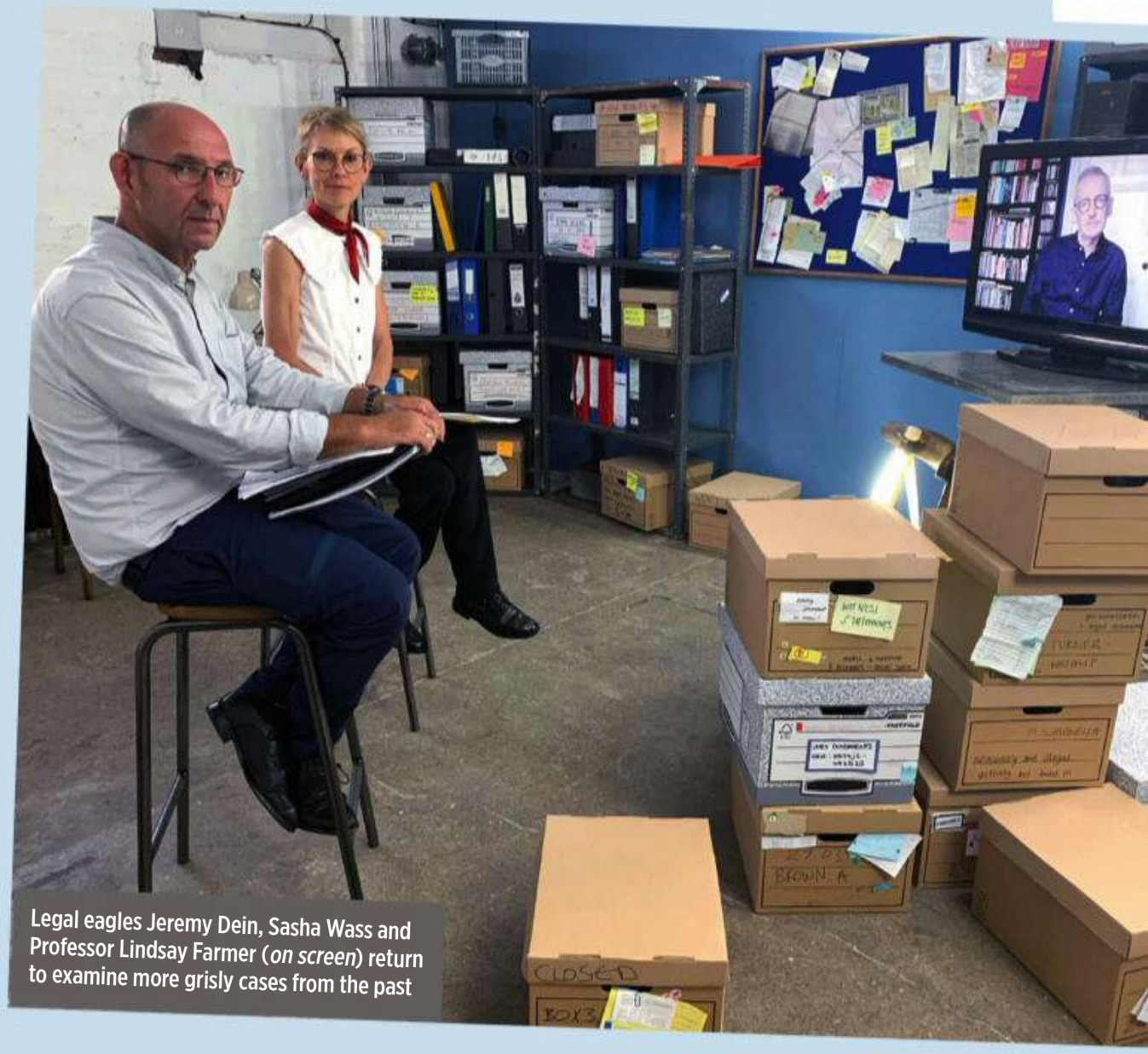
For those who trace their family histories, there's always the hope of finding a direct connection to someone famous. But not all connections to those who have been in the news of yesteryear are welcome, especially when a killer looms up from the past.

Yet some murder convictions are unsafe, leading to people being executed because of evidence that, to modern eyes, seems flimsy or even just fabricated. It's these kinds of cases, those where there may have been a miscarriage of justice, that feature in daytime weekday series *Murder, Mystery and My Family*, which has just returned for a fifth series.

In each episode, criminal barristers Sasha Wass and Jeremy Dein revisit a case where a descendant thinks that their forebear's guilty verdict bears reexamining. Judge David Radford hears the evidence that has been gathered and 'rules' whether the conviction was safe.

To take just one example from these new episodes, Wass and Dein look back to 1867, when five men stood trial for the shooting and murder of a policeman, Sergeant Charles Brett, during an attempt to free leaders of the Fenian Brotherhood, a movement dedicated to ending British rule in Ireland. Three of the five men were hanged, including 19-year-old carpenter William Philip Allen, and collectively came to be known as the 'Manchester Martyrs'.

A century-and-a-half later, one of Allen's great nieces has been looking anew at what happened. If Allen, who claimed to be innocent, did shoot Brett, was it deliberate? And given the febrile atmosphere surrounding the case, did the men get a fair trial?



Legal eagles Jeremy Dein, Sasha Wass and Professor Lindsay Farmer (*on screen*) return to examine more grisly cases from the past

A new Yesterday series sees Siddy Holloway and Tim Dunn delve into the disused stations and tunnels beneath the streets of London

What lies beneath

Secrets of the London Underground / Yesterday, July

The Metropolitan Railway, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened in 1863. In the years since, an elaborate system of tunnels has been constructed beneath the capital, and the London Underground now extends to 270 stations and 250 miles of track.

But the history of the Tube isn't just a matter of expansion and adding new lines. Over the years, stations and tunnels have also fallen out of use and been abandoned. It's these locales that railway historian Tim Dunn (*The Architecture the Railways Built*) and historian Siddy Holloway, from the London Transport Museum, explore in a new series devoted to disused sections of the world famous Tube network.

The first of six episodes begins in Holborn, where Dunn and Holloway visit an abandoned branch line to Aldwych a line that closed in the 1990s. In the same episode, the duo also head for Holloway Road, where they see the remains of the Underground's only spiral escalator.

The second show features North End station under Hampstead Heath. Abandoned before completion when it became obvious it wouldn't attract sufficient passengers, it subsequently became a Cold War bunker.

Creature feature

The Secret of the Animal Mummies / PBS America, Thursday 22 July

The Tuna el Gebel catacombs in Middle Egypt contain thousands of embalmed creatures. But why did the ancient Egyptians go to such huge lengths to preserve these creatures and what precisely happened when animals were sacrificed?

In a fascinating documentary, cameras follow the work of German scientist Mélanie Flossmann Schütze, who has been investigating the remains as she explores the idea that priests may have been committing fraud against the faithful. X rays reveal a shocking truth: many mummies contain only parts of corpses or fabric.

The remains of an ibis found in the Tuna el-Gebel catacombs

MUST SEE

The toile of the Queen Mother's coronation dress features exquisite gold embroidery

RIGHT: **Princess Diana's 'going away' outfit for her 1981 honeymoon**

BELOW: **Her wedding dress is one of the most famous garments in recent royal history**

Royal Style in the Making

UNTIL 2 JANUARY 2022, KENSINGTON PALACE

PAID ENTRY *hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace*

Lovers of royal fashion will be in their element with Kensington Palace's new exhibition. Housed inside the palace's newly conserved orangery, the display showcases rare items from the royal fashion archives for the first time, alongside famous garments worn by members of British royalty and the royal court throughout the 20th century – from coronation gowns to wedding dresses.

One of the exhibition's highlights is undoubtedly the wedding dress worn by the late Princess Diana, which has returned to Kensington Palace for the first time in 25 years. Wowing the world when Diana tied the knot with Prince Charles in 1981, the garment's 25-foot, sequin-encrusted train remains the longest in royal history, while its large, puffed sleeves and ruffles of taffeta have gone on to inspire countless wedding dress designers over subsequent decades. As well as its sheer size and elegance, the dress is also notable for its connection with a previous generation of the royal family, incorporating antique lace that had been worn by Prince Charles' great-grandmother, Queen Mary.

Elsewhere in the exhibition, visitors can examine a toile for the coronation gown worn by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1937, when her husband – King George VI – was crowned at Westminster Abbey. A full-size working pattern of the completed gown, the toile shows the intricate embroidery pattern that was present on the finished garment.

Entry to Royal Style in the Making is included in the cost of general admission to Kensington Palace. Tickets must be booked in advance, using the website address above.

HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES X1, ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST X2, IWM X2, ALAMY X1, MEASE VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHY X1

Do you have what it takes to fly a Spitfire? Discover more about these impressive aircraft at IWM Duxford

Flying Days

DATES THROUGHOUT AUGUST, IWM DUXFORD

PAID ENTRY *iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford*

IWM Duxford will be hosting its popular Flying Day air shows this summer.

On 4 August, the Squadron 19 Heroes will be putting on an impressive aerial display and commemorating the occasion in 1938 when the first Spitfire arrived at Duxford, while a week later, on 11 August, children can enjoy Showtime, with storytelling, crafts and entertainment courtesy of the Spitfire and Tiger Moth. And if any younger family members want to know what it's like to sit in the cockpit themselves, they can attend Young Aviators on 19 August, where they'll discover what it takes to become a pilot.

As well as impressive aerial displays, all three days will feature living history demonstrators telling real stories from World War II, aided by authentic equipment, uniforms and vehicles. There will also be the opportunity to explore highlights from the Historic Aircraft Collection, which includes the Spitfire, Hurricane and Nimrod.

The Typewriter Revolution

UNTIL 17 APRIL 2022, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH

FREE ENTRY *nms.ac.uk*

When American printer and journalist Christopher Latham Sholes first invented the typewriter in 1867, little did he know that his invention would revolutionise the world. Within offices and homes, the typewriter would soon become an indispensable tool.

For this free exhibition, National Museums Scotland has unveiled its collection of historic typewriters – from early prototypes to top electronic models. One of the highlights is an 1876 Sholes and Glidden typewriter, which was the first to use a QWERTY keyboard.

As they explore the display, visitors will be able to uncover the fascinating story of how the devices changed life in business and the arts, and even helped women find new freedoms within the workplace.

The National Museums Scotland collection boasts this Blickensderfer No 5 typewriter, made in Stamford, Connecticut, c1898–1909

New Anglo-Saxon Gallery

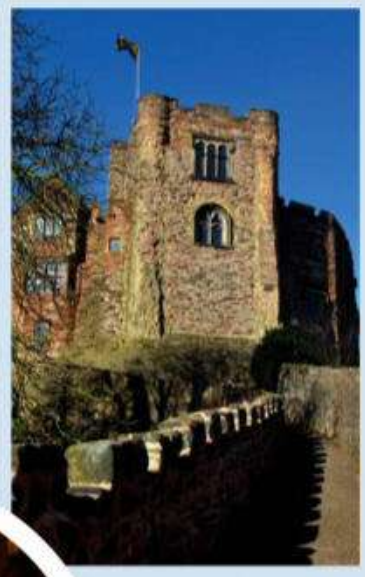
TAMWORTH CASTLE

PAID ENTRY *tamworthcastle.co.uk*

Tamworth Castle is unveiling a brand new interactive gallery dedicated to the area's rich Anglo Saxon history.

Entitled Battle and Tribute, the display includes a recreated mead hall, as well as games and films for visitors to enjoy. Investigating themes of kingship, battle and the warrior culture of Anglo Saxon Mercia, it will also explore the story of famous Mercian queen Æthelflæd. Daughter of Alfred the Great, she became the only female ruler of an Anglo Saxon kingdom after her husband's death, and defended it against Viking invasions.

However, a particular highlight of the gallery is a collection of objects from the Staffordshire Hoard. Found in 2009, it remains the largest Anglo Saxon hoard ever unearthed, and contains swords, jewellery and armour.



Tamworth Castle was home to the kings of Mercia and rebuilt by the Normans

Nero: The Man Behind the Myth

UNTIL 24 OCTOBER, BRITISH MUSEUM

PAID ENTRY *britishmuseum.org*

One of the most notorious emperors to ever rule Rome, Nero has been cast as a cruel and mad tyrant throughout history. His reign, which began in AD 54 and ended with his violent death 14 years later, also witnessed monumental events such as the Great Fire of Rome and the rebellion of Boudica in Britain.

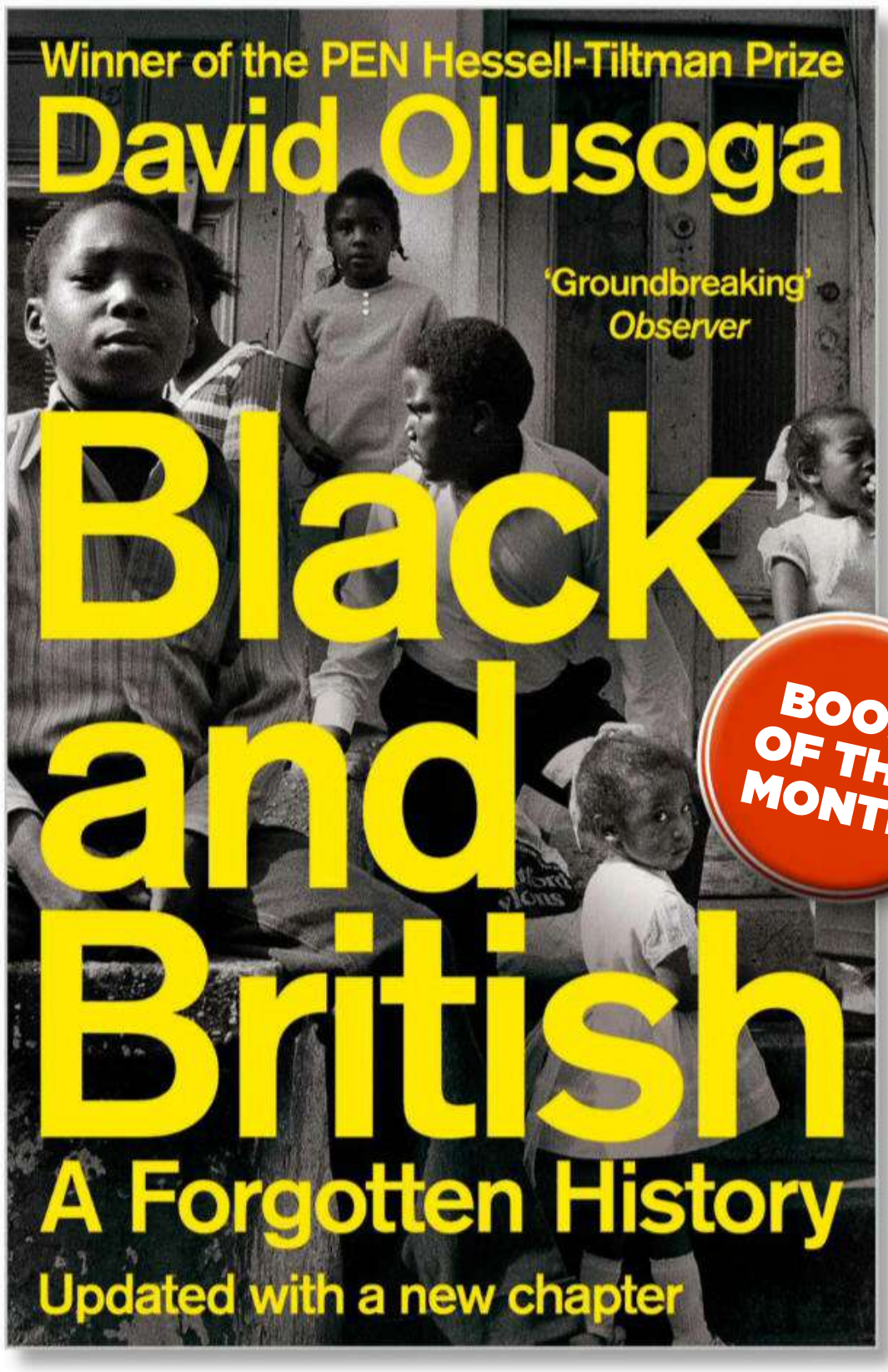
Through more than 200 objects from jewellery to gladiatorial armour this major new exhibition at the British Museum seeks to re examine Nero's reputation, and answer some of the biggest questions that have surrounded his rule. Does he deserve his reputation for debauchery? Did he really leave Rome to burn? And was he truly a tyrant, or just an inexperienced young man struggling with a divided empire?

Tickets can be booked online, but please note that a separate ticket will be required to visit the museum's permanent collection.

Was Nero a tyrant or an effective and popular leader?

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



Black and British: A Forgotten History

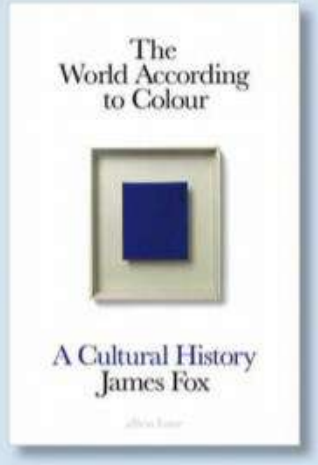
By David Olusoga
Picador, £12.99, paperback, 640 pages

First published back in 2016, this award winning look at the long relationship between Britain and people from Africa and the Caribbean is now rereleased in paperback with a new chapter. The fresh material is representative of just how crucial and timely this history is, exploring issues such as the wrongful deportation of members of the 'Windrush generation' and the roots of last summer's Black Lives Matter protests. A powerful, masterful account from one of Britain's leading historians.

The World According to Colour: A Cultural History

By James Fox
Allen Lane, £25, hardback, 352 pages

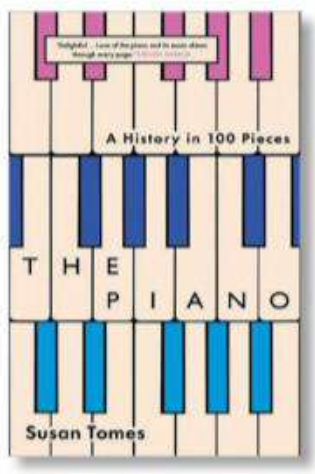
Art historian and broadcaster James Fox you may have caught his series of documentaries on BBC Four, in 2012 here looks at the past through the prism of colour. He explores how seven shades (red, yellow, blue, black, white, purple and green) can help us understand a linked idea from the association of gold with godliness and the red blood that unites us, to the vast blue horizons that drove the Age of Discovery. This is a fascinating, and wide ranging, cultural and visual history.

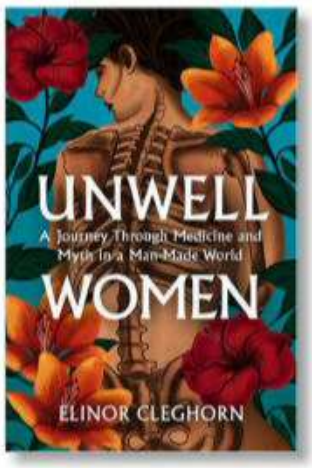


The Piano: A History in 100 Pieces

By Susan Tomes
Yale, £16.99, hardback, 400 pages

From the Baroque courtly works of Domenico Scarlatti to the drawing room recitals of Jane Austen's heroines, the piano occupied a central place in the lives of generations of our forebears. This chronology of compositions explores the major figures and key moments in its social, artistic and technological development, right up to the jazz and minimalism of the past century. It's as interesting for lovers of history as it is for those of a musical persuasion.





Unwell Women: A Journey through Medicine and Myth in a Man-Made World

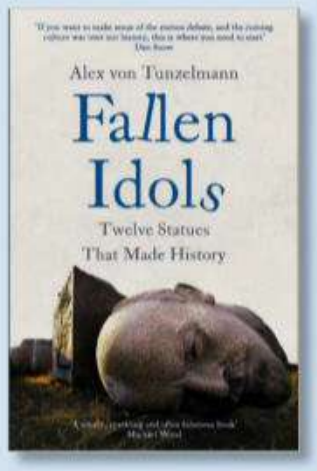
By Elinor Cleghorn
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.99, hardback, 496 pages

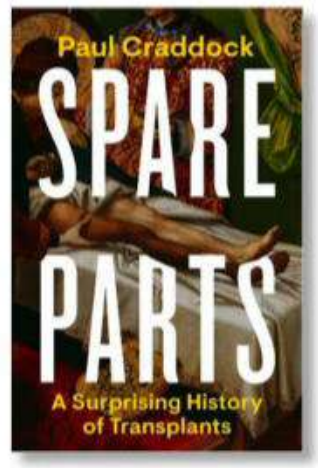
Women's health, and women's bodies, have for centuries been misinterpreted by male-dominated medicine through a prism of misogyny. That's the compelling argument of this new book, which ranges from the so-called 'wandering womb' diagnosed by ancient Greek physicians to barbaric treatments for 'hysteria' administered as recently as the 19th century. This is fascinating, often maddening stuff, leavened by tales of women who fought back against medical orthodoxy.

Fallen Idols: Twelve Statues that Made History

By Alex von Tunzelmann
Headline, £20, hardback, 272 pages

From last year's felling of a statue of slave trader Edward Colston in Bristol to a staff boycott of a University of Oxford college due to its decision to retain an effigy of 19th-century politician and imperialist Cecil Rhodes, the issue of likenesses of controversial historical figures is here to stay. Alex von Tunzelmann here looks beyond simplistic concepts of 'good' and 'bad' to tackle some of the debate's biggest questions: what stories do these statues tell? Who decides who tells them? And should we change our relationship with the past?





Spare Parts: A Surprising History of Transplants

By Paul Craddock
Fig Tree, £18.99, hardback, 304 pages

This history of medical transplants explores the ways in which we have attempted to repair, replace and rejuvenate our bodies, from Renaissance Italy to the present day. Each chapter focuses on the people and procedures involved in the attempted replacement of a specific biological component – skin, blood, teeth, heart – with a final section exploring possible future fusions of flesh and technology. Throughout, it's not afraid to tackle the bigger philosophical questions these operations raised, and what they tell us about being human.

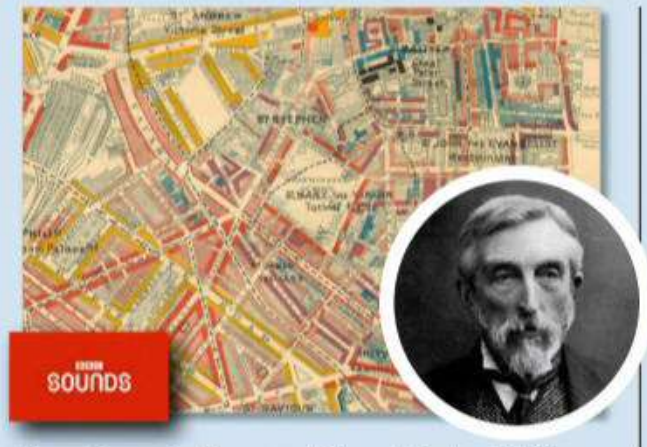
PODCAST WHAT TO LISTEN TO...

Each month we bring you three of our favourite podcasts from the BBC and HistoryExtra

The Long View: The Roaring Twenties

bit.ly/TwentiesPod97

The restrictions, and sadness, wrought by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic have led some commentators to speculate whether the rest of the decade might see a 1920s-esque flourishing of culture and economy. This series explores whether the 'Roaring Twenties' really deserve that reputation, and whether we may see history repeating itself.



In Our Time: Booth's Life and Labour Survey

bit.ly/BoothPod97

At the end of the 19th century, social reformer Charles Booth surveyed every household in the UK's capital for his groundbreaking book series *Life and Labour of the People in London*. Historians Emma Griffin, Sarah Wise and Lawrence Goldman here talk to Melvyn Bragg about that survey and just why it was so influential.

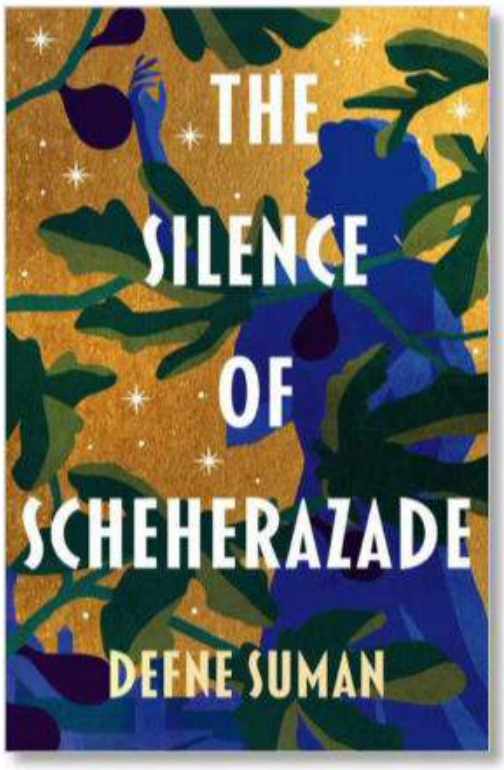
Salem: Investigating the Witch Trials

bit.ly/SalemPod97

This new, nine-part podcast series explores the Salem Witch Trials of the late 17th century, which saw 19 inhabitants of a small New England community hanged for alleged 'witchcraft'. From the feverish atmosphere that led to the accusations to the failings of the justice system, this is a new take on an episode that continues to fascinate.

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2

HISTORICAL FICTION...



The Silence of Scheherazade

By Defne Suman (Translator: Betsy Göksel)
19 August 2021, Head of Zeus, £18.99

In the historic city of Smyrna, in 1905, Scheherazade is born at the same time that an Indian spy arrives in the city with secret orders from the British empire. The city he enters is a far cry from the flame filled place he'll leave 17 years later. The story of the dissolution of the Ottoman empire is told through the eyes of a Levantine, a Greek, a Turkish and an Armenian family, as well as that of a city and culture now lost to history.

Excerpt

The flames of the Great Fire of Smyrna are eating the city and hundreds of thousands of Greek refugees are trapped between the fire and the dark waters of the sea at the quay

The horse, scattering fire, moved towards the sea. The people on the quay cried out and raised their arms in alarm. The girl ran after it. The flames had spread to her arms and hands; to her hair and her shawl. She did not notice. Hilmi Rahmi spurred his horse forward. Everyone turned and stared at the cavalry officer galloping towards the girl.

She flew over an old man lying on the ground. With scorched hands, she gathered her burning skirts. Her legs were festering wounds. The soldier's eyes shone as if lit by electricity. People moved aside. The girl lifted her bare, bloodied foot and leapt into the darkness, ready to join her beloved horse, already deep in the murky water.

Everyone watched as the girl hung in the air like a bird of fire, suspended over the ghastly sea.

And then, through the gloom, an arm reached out. The bird of fire was caught mid-air. Paying no mind to the flames which leapt at his skin from the waist he'd grasped, Hilmi Rahmi threw Panagiota across the back of his horse. The animal whinnied and tried to buck the flaming creature off his back. Panagiota screamed with all her strength. 'Ohi!'

The crowd closed their eyes.

KALEM AGENCY X1

Q&A
Defne Suman

Born in Istanbul, Defne Suman grew up on Prinkipo Island off the coast of Turkey and went on to study sociology in Turkey and the US. *The Silence of Scheherazade* is Suman's English-language debut and was previously published in Turkey and Greece in 2015.

Why did you choose the dissolution of the Ottoman empire as the basis for your novel?
I grew up in Istanbul, a city that has been both the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires. The history of the Ottoman empire was not only in schoolbooks, but everywhere around me as I was growing up. When I felt the inspiration to write, this place and time was the inevitable choice. You know what they say to writers: always start with what you know best!

What would you like readers to take from your novel?
Like every author who creates a fictional world I'd like my readers to be in that world with me. I'd like them to immerse themselves in the Smyrna of the early 20th century – to feel the sea breeze and taste the sweets from the patisseries lined up on the quay. Only if they could love the world I had created and feel connected to the characters, would they be able to mourn for its loss. That is another thing I would like my readers to take from my novel: mourning the loss of beauty and elegance in our world.

How did you research and write your novel?
I read every novel about old Smyrna, collected maps to learn its topography and read memoirs from people who lived there. The Levantine Heritage Foundation website (*levantineheritage.com*) provided me with lots of photos and information about the city. In Athens there is a neighbourhood called New Smyrna where Greek refugees from Smyrna settled when they were forced out of Turkey. I went to the archive and read Greek newspapers of the past. In Turkey, I spent time walking the streets of Izmir, calculating how long it takes to get around.

How important is the city of Smyrna in the book?
Smyrna is the story! It is the birth and the loss of it. When I was deciding on the characters, I wanted someone who would be the ultimate metaphor of old Smyrna. A quarter Turkish, quarter Greek, quarter Levantine... someone whose history is forgotten. A silent Scheherazade.

Is there another topic you'd like to write about?
The 'silenced' history of Turkey – especially what happened to the Christians of the Ottoman empire – is an interest of mine. The empire was a mosaic of religions and ethnicities. How did we arrive from that to today's Turkey, where there is only one religion and one language that survives?

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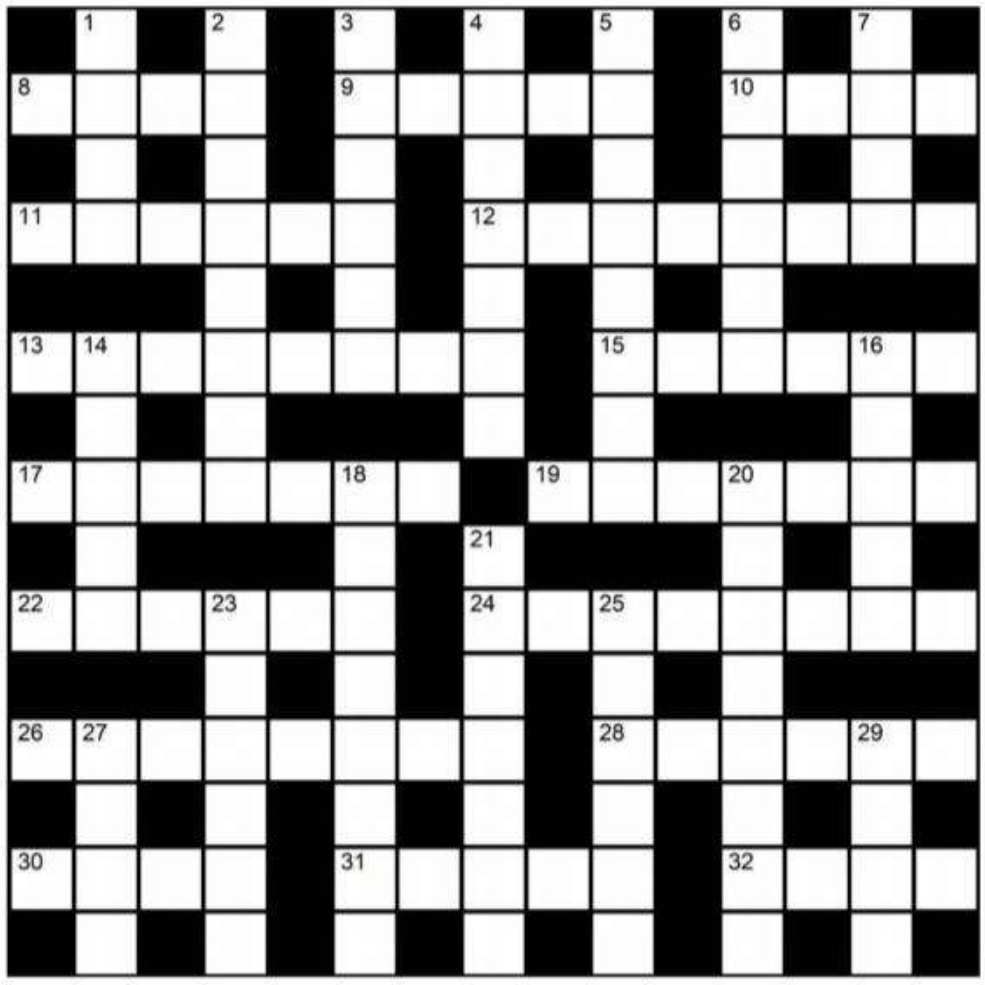


Set by Richard Smyth

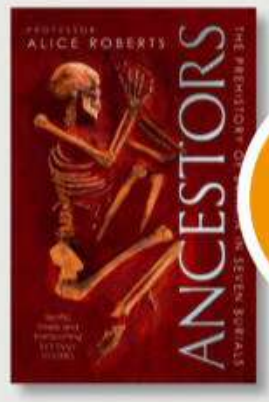
ACROSS

8 Ancient city of Palestine (4)
9 Historic Honshu port city (5)
10 Sweeney ___, demon barber of London folklore (4)
11 Dickens' Mr Bumble, for example (6)
12 Treaty of ___, 1923 agreement establishing the Turkish Republic (8)
13 2014 biopic by Mike Leigh, starring Timothy Spall (2,6)
15 Vladimir Nabokov novel of 1955 (6)
17 Marjory Stoneman ___ (1890–1998), Everglades conservationist (7)
19 Mesopotamian kingdom (7)
22 Bantu people of southern Africa (6)
24 Sir John ___ (1664–1726), playwright and architect (8)
26 Bach or Brahms, say? (8)
28 ___ Hoo, Suffolk site noted for its archaeological finds (6)
30 Wigan ___, coal-loading jetty on the Leeds-Liverpool canal (4)
31 *The Big* ___, publication founded in 1991 (5)
32 Texas city, scene of the 1916 lynching of Jesse Washington (4)

DOWN

1 Calamity ___ (1852–1903), US frontierswoman (4)
2 Carl ___ (1878–1967), Illinois poet, biographer of Abraham Lincoln (8)
3 Anne ___ (d1536), second wife of Henry VIII (6)
4 Popular 19th-century stage farce by John Poole (4,3)
5 Poet of the 1st century BC (8)
6 Apostle also known as Saul of Tarsus (2,4)
7 British Crown colony in the Middle East from 1937 to 1963 (4)
14 1976 novel by Alex Haley (5)
16 The ___, Soviet bugging device deployed in 1945 (5)
18 1949 film starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy (5,3)
20 Major battle of the American War of Independence (8)
21 Mount ___, Nepal peak first scaled in 1953 (7)
23 André-Marie ___ (1775–1836), French physicist (6)
25 Gamal Abdel ___ (1918–70), second President of Egypt (6)
27 Major Norse deity (4)
29 Global finance organisation founded in 1961 (initials) (4)

CHANCE TO WIN



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SOLUTION Nº 95

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LETTERS

Reader Geoff Bantock feels that Captain Stanley Lord of SS *Californian* (pictured) was made a scapegoat in the wake of the *Titanic* disaster

WHAT IF THE VIKINGS HAD NEVER LEFT HOME?
THE NAZI WAR ON CANCER
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YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE
TITANIC
The tragic story of the 'unsinkable' ship – from slipway to seabed
LADY JANE GREY ENGLAND'S NINE-DAY QUEEN

THIS MONTH... 1553
ANNIVERSARIES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY
Lady Jane Grey gains (and loses) the throne of England
Words: Rhiannon Davies
"Each day Jane sat on England's throne, the whispers calling for Mary to rule multiplied. By the ninth day, they had grown to a roar"
PALACE TO PRISON

Lady Jane Grey's reputation as a usurper to the throne has meant that she is rarely styled as 'Queen'

TITANIC FAILURE?

I suspect the reason that Stanley Lord, captain of SS *Californian* [the ship that failed to come to *Titanic*'s aid on the night it sank] was never punished was because he was a useful scapegoat for the incompetence of the officers of RMS *Titanic*, who charged through an icefield at full speed.

SS *Californian* was a vessel of around 6,000 tons and with decks 30 feet lower than RMS *Titanic*, which was some 52,000 tons; it was stationary in the dark in the middle of an ice field some 10 miles away and would not have been able to reach *Titanic* in the hour between Captain Stanley Lord being told about the rockets to when the ship sank. All Lord could have done was to rescue slowly (as he only had a small crew) those who were already in lifeboats. Those not in lifeboats would have still drowned in minutes in the icy Atlantic before they could have been rescued.

If you travel at full steam through an icefield on a moonless night, with no wind and no swell, you are likely to hit an iceberg because you cannot see it until the last minute. This, combined with a lack of lifeboats, is why so few were saved. If the incompetent officers on RMS *Titanic* had filled all the lifeboats fully, then it wouldn't have been quite the tragedy it was.

Geoff Bantock,
Dorset

SCOTTISH COURAGE

With regards to your recent piece on the Normandy invasion (June 2021), I once got talking to the gateman outside my wife's workplace, who told me that he had driven a landing craft carrying Scottish soldiers on D Day. When the ramp dropped, the Scottish soldiers apparently started running up the beach throwing off their grenades and drawing their knives. According to the gateman, the Germans fled at the sight of them.

J Grove, by email

QUEEN OR NOT?

Your feature on Lady Jane Grey (July 2021) reminded me of a question that has long puzzled me: why is she not recognised as Queen Jane, even if she only reigned for nine days?

Edward V has a regnal number, but I do not believe he was any more a monarch than the unfortunate Lady Jane.

David Baxter,
Leigh-on-Sea

We asked Tudor historian Tracy Borman to shed some light on David's question...

"The short answer is, she should be: Jane was the rightful queen according to the terms of Edward VI's 'Devise', which altered the succession in her favour. But she was widely regarded at the time – and ever since – as a usurper because Henry VIII had bequeathed the throne to his children, Edward, Mary and Elizabeth. When it became clear that Edward (a staunch Protestant) was dying, his most powerful adviser John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, persuaded him to overthrow his father's wishes so as to avoid the fervently Catholic Mary inheriting the crown. But it was also to further the interests of his own family: Dudley's son Guildford had recently married Lady Jane Grey. Jane was proclaimed Queen on 10 July 1553, four days after Edward's death, but was deposed nine days later by Mary Tudor, whom the vast majority of people (Protestants included) regarded as the rightful heir. Mary and her successors made sure that for ever afterwards Jane was styled 'Lady' rather than 'Queen' to emphasise that she had usurped the throne."

The sight of Scottish troops on D-Day (some of whom are shown here) caused German forces to flee in terror, says reader J Grove

ALAMY X2

NEXT ISSUE

··· ON SALE 5 AUGUST ···

ANCIENT GREECE

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The three lucky winners of the crossword from issue 94 are:

L Grabham, Durham
J Richards, Oxfordshire
J Sclanders, Lincolnshire

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *Entrepreneurs Who Changed History*

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EDITORIAL
Editor Charlotte Hodgman
charlotte.hodgman@immediate.co.uk
Deputy Editor/Digital Section Editor Kev Lochun
Production Editor Jon Bauckham
Staff Writer Emma Slattery Williams
Digital Editor Emma Mason
Acting Digital Editor Elinor Evans
elinor.evans@immediate.co.uk
Digital Section Editor Rachel Dinning

ART
Art Editor Sheu-Kuei Ho
Picture Editor Rosie McPherson

CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS
Rob Blackmore, Tracy Borman, Emma Butcher, Rhiannon Davies, Matt Elton, Richard J Evans, Sonia Grant, Lisa Moses, Gordon O'Sullivan, Justin Pollard, Danny Robins, Richard Smyth, Defne Suman, Nige Tassell, Will Wainewright, Jonny Wilkes, Jonathan Wright

PRESS & PR
Communications Manager
Emma Cooney 0117 300 8507
emma.cooney@immediate.co.uk

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager John Lawton

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
Advertisement Manager
Sam Jones 0117 314 8847
sam.jones@immediate.co.uk
Subscriptions Director
Jacky Perales-Morris
Subscriptions Marketing Manager
Natalie Lawrence/Kevin Slaughter

PRODUCTION
Production Director Sarah Powell
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Emily Mounter
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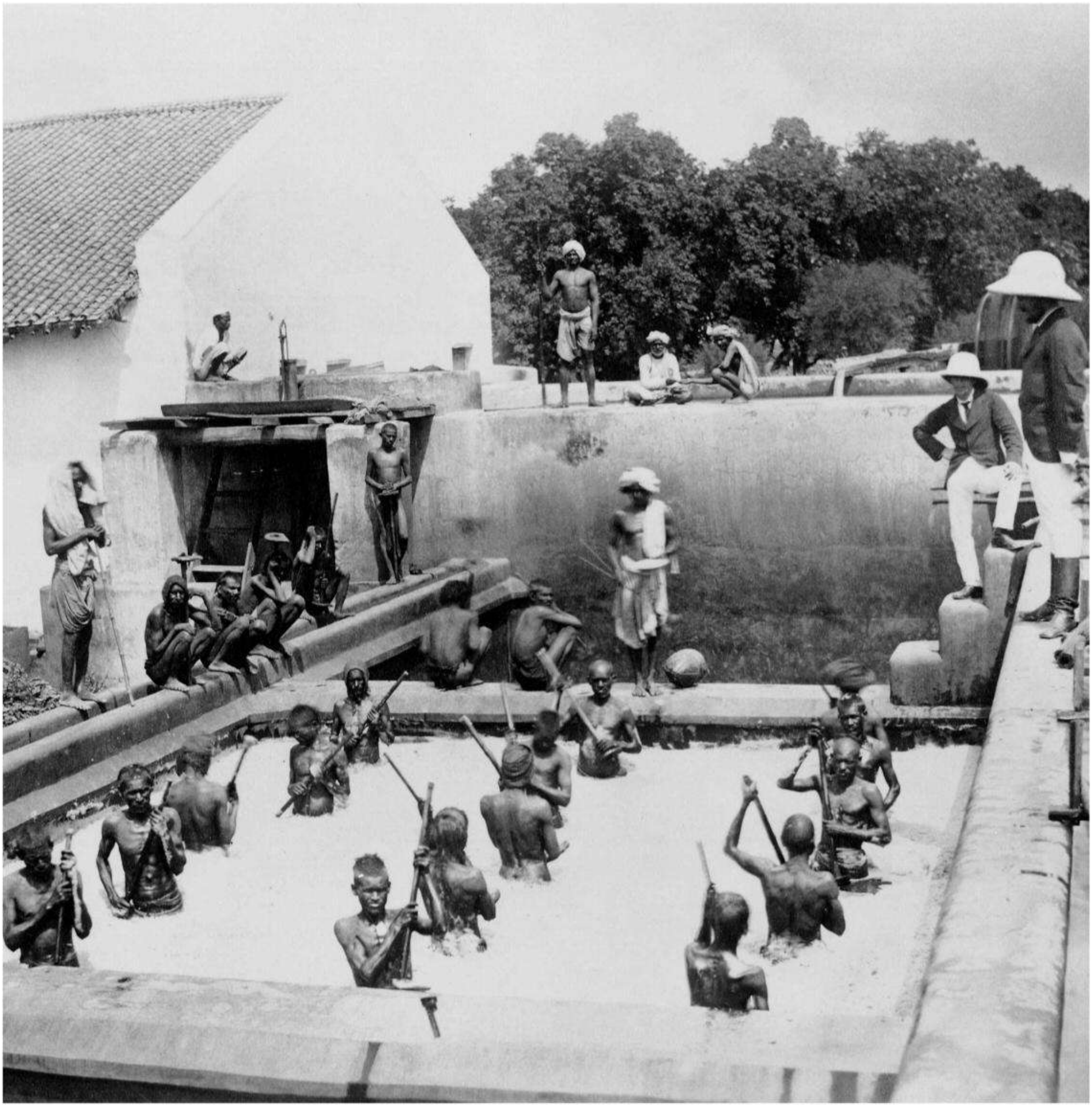

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A part of the cultivation process involved beating the indigo leaves by hand as they soaked in large vats – a task being performed by these farmers in Allahabad (now Prayagraj) in north-central India, photographed by Frenchman Oscar Mallitte.

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